

***Sources of  
Myths, Legends,  
Stories and  
Classical  
Literature***

Miguel Carvalho

Abrantes



# Index

0- Introduction.....	1
1- Anonymous Authors and Miscellanea.....	5
2- Section A.....	139
3- Section B.....	201
4- Section C.....	269
5- Section D.....	353
6- Section E.....	389
7- Section F.....	415
8- Section G.....	449
9- Section H.....	493
10- Section I.....	529
11- Section J.....	537
12- Section K.....	565
13- Section L.....	583
14- Section M.....	630
15- Section N.....	685
16- Section O.....	701
17- Section P.....	721
18- Section Q.....	789
19- Section R.....	793
20- Section S.....	825
21- Section T.....	905
22- Section U.....	929

23- Section V.....	931
24- Section W.....	953
25- Section X.....	979
26- Section Y.....	983
27- Section Z.....	987

Copyright © 2025 Miguel Carvalho Abrantes

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher.

Cover art photo by Ivo Rainha @ Pexels.

Last Update: 31 of December 2025

## 0- Introduction

This book is a sequel, or perhaps more accurately a much improved version, of *Sources of Classical Literature: Briefly presenting over 1000 works*. Although that previous work is now available both in ebook and physical formats, this newer one was specifically designed to be ever-changing and continually updated across time<sup>1</sup>. As such, it can only exist in an ebook form.

Essentially, this started as a compilation of literary sources on myths, legends and Classical Literature. Its creation rose out of a significant problem, i.e. how can one read or investigate works which ones knows absolutely nothing about? Or, in a much broader sense, if you do not know that a book

---

1 If you have purchased this work, please notice that its most current edition, with all the latest updates, can likely also be obtained at the address <https://archive.org/details/sources-of-myths-legends-and-classical-literature> .

even exists, how can you ever read it? It was in order to combat that evident issue that this book was compiled. As part of my personal research on Comparative Mythology, across the years I read a significant number of literary sources and jotted down some notes on their respective contents. This was done not only to prevent me from accidentally rereading a book multiple times, but also to facilitate that other people could eventually learn about those other works too. For example, if most people may have heard about Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, even if in a very vague and limited form, how many have read the adventures of Arabella, or Lucian of Samosata's fascinating novel *True History*? Few seem to have heard about any of them, and if someone simply hasn't heard about a specific book, no matter how culturally significant it is, it turns out being completely impossible to read it...

Following from that idea, if this started as a compilation of Classical Literature, across time it became much larger and metaphorically pregnant with more and more literary sources, not only ones related to myths and legends from all over the world, but also

ones regarding stories, in a broader sense of that concept. And so, that's what you can read in this work, a perfect opportunity to get to know a near-endless number of new books, all of them summed up very briefly and with particular emphasis on their cultural importance and the many stories they present to us.

I know this is clearly not a book you can simply read across, page after page, but one you may occasionally consult from time to time; nonetheless, I do hope you enjoy it and the references it contains.

Miguel Carvalho Abrantes





## 1- Anonymous Authors and Miscellanea

This very first section contains the works of anonymous or unknown authors, along with others which, for one reason or another, I preferred not to assign any authorship to.

### ✓ *Acts of Andrew*

Although this work is not fully extant any more, Gregory of Tours wrote a sum-up of it. Judging from it, the original appears to have been a really crazy type of novel, with the apostle successively saving a ton of people in multiple different kinds of situations via the help and power of Jesus Christ.

### ✓ *Acts of Barnabas*

A simple work detailing the travels and acts of Barnabas and John Mark (a companion of Paul the Apostle). It does not contain any huge miracles, as it is frequent in the genre.

### ✓ *Acts of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

In this apocryphal account, both Peter and Paul go to

Rome and end up facing Simon Magus, with Peter having the biggest role. It should be noted this work features, at first, an almost unbiased Nero, unlike the completely devilish figure he is in many other christian texts. It ends with a short retelling of the story of a Perpetua, a partially blind woman who is miraculously healed by Paul's blood and who is later martyred, along with some other believers in the new religion.

✓ *Acts of Paul and Thecla*

Somewhat of an apocryphal romance, it tells how one virgin named Thecla met the apostle Paul and through his teachings converted to Christianity. Eventually, she survives multiple murder attempts, and dies naturally at the age of 90. What is particularly noteworthy about this text is that, according to Tertullian, we know who wrote/forged it, and that doing so led to the writer's deposition from the Church; this being the earliest reference to Saint Thecla, one definitely has to wonder if the whole story was ever true, or entirely made up by such author.

✓ *Acts of Peter*

An apocryphal account of the acts of the apostle Peter,

both before he goes to Rome and in the city itself. Among the most significant episodes you can find here are his confrontation with Simon Magus, the famous “quo vadis” sequence, and the account of his upside-down crucifixion.

✓ *Acts of Thomas*

This apocryphal text relates the actions of “Doubting Thomas” in the lands of India. It contains a few short stories along with one bigger one; the kind of strangeness you can find here is perhaps best exemplified by the fact that, initially, the apostle Thomas did not want to go preach in India, and so Jesus Christ miraculously appeared and personally sold him into slavery.

✓ *Acts of Xanthippe and Polyxena*

The stories of two women who converted to Christianity. They are essentially short and self-contained Christian romances.

✓ *Adapa*

A tale from Sumer, about a wise fisherman who breaks the wings of a wind, and the lengths he has to go

through in order to avoid a bigger retribution from his action. Likely the most intriguing element of this text is the fact that the main character accidentally, and yet justifiably given the whole context, rejects the gift of immortality.

✓      *Aetna*                      \*2

A small Latin poem on the volcano Etna, with a few mythological references. Some attribute it to the poet Virgil.

✓      *Agrapha* (i.e. the lost sayings of Jesus)

Although the sayings of Jesus are known to us essentially from the four gospels preserved in the Bible, some additional sources from the Antiquity also present additional phrases attributed to him. The most famous is certainly the *Gospel According to Thomas*, found in the Nag Hammadi corpus, but there are also

---

2      This symbol essentially means that this work was not fully explored, either because I couldn't find scholarly editions or because, for some reason, I ultimately decided not to explore it further than a certain point.

several modern compilations in which you can gather more information about other phrases attributed to Jesus in miscellaneous sources from the first centuries of our era.

✓ *Aladdin*

Famous as part of the *Arabian Nights*, this story was not part of the original composition. Its original source is currently unknown, but this specific story is still quite famous nowadays.

✓ *Alphabet of Sirach*

Also known as *Alphabet of Ben-Sira*, this is a satirical and fictional text from the Middle Ages, presenting the unusual birth, development and wisdom of Sirach. It is particularly famous for the fact it presents, in one of the hero's late answers to Nebuchadnezzar, the earliest reference to Lilith as Adam's first wife. It also contains several other sequences similar to small legends, derived from the content of the Torah, but one should be carefully aware that they are all completely satirical, and should never be taken as anything more than that.

✓ *Altercatio Hadriani augusti et Epicteti philosophi*

Clearly fictional, this work presents 73 brief questions Epictetus answered to Emperor Hadrian. They're not complex at all, just a few words long, and although they may inspire some fruitful philosophical discussion, in itself the work is far from pleasing.

✓ *Apocalypse of Adam*

One of the texts from the Nag Hammadi Library, it features the elements typical of the whole "Apocalypse" genre, but this one is noteworthy for the fact it contains thirteen potential identifications of their saviour, with twelve of them derived from other myths known at the time, such as Mithras' and Orpheus'.

✓ *Apocalypse of Paul*

Written in the first centuries of our era, this text presents a supposed event during which Paul of Tarsus was taken to the heavens and hells and shown what exists there.

✓ *Apocalypse of Peter*

Once apparently as popular as the (canonical) *Apocalypse of John*, this now-incomplete work contains

a vision of the afterlife that was supposedly shown to Peter, in which the reader is told not only of all the sufferings that bad people will have to go through, depending on their respective crimes, but also gets a partial vision of heaven. It seems to be the oldest extant christian example of this subject.

✓ *Apocalypse of Sedrach*

In this text Sedrach asks to talk to God in person and, oddly enough, the request is accepted. What follows is a surprising dialogue on the meaning of the original sin and human atonement.

✓ *Apocalypse of the Virgin*

In this text the Virgin Mary asks for the help of the angels and visits hell, seeing all the punishments that are being suffered there, with some of them being a bit unusual by today's standards (e.g. you're not up on a sunday morning? To hell with you!) In the end, through her personal intervention, the sufferers get slightly less heavy penalties.

✓ *Apocalypse Of Zephaniah* (f)<sup>3</sup>

This Jewish text appears to preserve an early version of its hero's journey into the afterlife. The extant fragments contain, here and there, some descriptions of horrible creatures, and also some incomplete forms of what could be found in such places, but other than that the text is currently too incomplete for readers to be able to follow the entire plot.

✓ *Apocalypse of Zerubbabel*

A medieval hebrew text of the Apocalypse genre, apparently from the 7th century AD. For me, the most interesting aspect about it is the fact that Christianity is portrayed here as the opposer, the "bad guys", commanded by a mysterious figure named Armilus, who, according to some scholars, may have been the Byzantine emperor Heraclius.

✓ *Arquivo Historico de Portugal* \*

This collection of short magazines, published in the

---

3 This symbol means that the entry was only available in fragments, and so it had to be read in that incomplete form.



years of 1889 and 1890, present historical information about the main towns and villages of Portugal, including some brief references to their coats of arms and respective meanings. They also contain a few legends here and there, but that's clearly not their main focus.

✓ *Argonautica Orphica*

There are several different works reporting the adventures of Jason and the Argonauts, the most famous one certainly being Apollonius of Rhodes'. This one appears to be at least partially based on it, but it presents the whole adventure through the eyes of Orpheus, one of the travellers who accompanied Jason. Some episodes were adapted or amplified to exacerbate his role in the story; the magical ritual, exclusive to this version, with which the hero makes the dragon guarding the Golden Fleece fall asleep, is perhaps the most prominent and interesting aspect of this work.

✓ *Arguments of Celsus, Porphyry and the emperor Julian against the Christians (...)*

This brief work essentially quotes some of the

arguments these and other authors from the Antiquity used against Christianity. It is perhaps a useful work to gain an overall view of the originals, but I do have a very vague idea that more fragments were found by now.

✓ *Armas das Diferentes Cidades e Villas de Portugal*

A very simple work, seemingly from the mid XIX century, which contains beautiful drawings presenting coats of arms of Portuguese districts.

✓ *Ars moriendi* (short version)

In its so-called short version, this medieval composition briefly presents the five ways in which the Devil supposedly tested a dying man, and how they can be fought against by the sufferer.

✓ *As Ruas de Alcabideche*

I found this unusual book in a local library in Portugal by pure chance. It seems to have been published yearly, at least for a time, and it just presents the names of local streets, and in some cases businesses that may have existed there.

In the street I live in, for example, it presented just a mechanic's garage.

✓ *Aucassin and Nicolette*

A small medieval romance from France, unusual in the fact that it combines prose with verse. It contains all the elements typical of the time and genre, such as the couple being repeatedly separated through many different plot devices.

✓ *Auto Primeiro dos Sete Sábios da Grécia*

Published in the XVIII century, it contains some translated phrases associated with the Seven Sages of Ancient Greece, to which are also added notable ideas by other philosophers from the same period.

✓ *Auto Segundo dos Sete Sábios da Grécia*

A sequel to the above, it contains more phrases from the Seven Sages of Ancient Greece, along with notable ideas by other philosophers, and even some brief epistles related to them. They are all translated to Portuguese, of course.

✓ *Baital Pachisi*

Potentially translatable as *Twenty-five stories of Baital*, this is a collection of 25 stories – well, 24 plus one frame tale – compiled in medieval India, but which are seemingly based in older sources. They're essentially short love stories (although they do have some unusual plot twists here and there), which end in the middle of the plot, followed by an intriguingly relevant question being asked to the main character in the frame tale.

✓ *Bakemono no e*

From Japan, this scroll presents the illustrations of 35 traditional "bakemono", or monsters, presented alongside with their name (but no specific information on any of them, most unfortunately).

✓ *Ballad of Mulan*

A IV-VI AD poem from China in which the story of Mulan is first referenced. The storyline is a very simple one here, but it also gives plenty of room for addition, and later stories do seem to have gladly taken upon the task of improving this basic plot.

✓ *Bandarra de Algodres, ou Profecias da Epocha*

### *Presente*

Apparently written in the middle XIX century Portugal, these prophecies may remind the reader of another portuguese figure named Bandarra. However, he is not the author of these, and this creation is clearly inferior to the famous Bandarra's.

#### ✓ *Baterenki*

A fictional history of Christianity and their plan to conquer Japan, written by people from that country. It is fascinating in how it adapts stories known at the time in Europe, and uses them in a completely new context.

#### ✓ *Bel and the Dragon*

A short sequence of events often omitted from the *Book of Daniel*, in which the hero unmasks a fake god and easily defeats a dragon.

#### ✓ *The Bible*

The *Bible* is, evidently, the collective name given to the literary corpus accepted by the Christians. Many and many pages could be written about it in here, but the essential idea is... if you believe in something,

shouldn't you know what it is all about? Of course it is not an easy book to read, it's not something you'll be able to do it in just a week, but for cultural and religious reasons (evidently, if you believe in God and Jesus) it's certainly a work that deserves to be read across time.

✓ *Bhagavad Gita*

A section of the *Mahabharata* in which Krishna instructs Arjuna, essentially showing that to fight as he was about to do was permissible and correct. It is a deeply philosophical part of the work, and it can indeed be read on its own, require little knowledge of the plot of the famous epic from India.

✓ *The Black List (2022)*

I came across this yearly-published small book by pure accident, it is a compilation of popular, yet-to-be-produced, screenplays. Each of them is presented with some brief synopsis, and some are truly intriguing.

✓ *Book of Giants* (f)

Unfortunately only extant in fragments, this apocryphal book presented the adventures of the

giants which were eventually killed by the famous Flood of Noah. Based in these fragments, it can be known that the giants seemingly received multiple premonitory dreams of their own destruction; but it can also be noted that one such giant could have been named Gilgamesh, and another, named Og or Ogias, likely fought a giant dragon in this same source.

✓ *Book of Mormon* \*

Like the *Koran* (see below), the authorship of this work can be considered as problematic, although it is usually attributed to Joseph Smith. From a non-religious standpoint it can still be an intriguing read, if you consider it as expanding upon the Christian biblical canon for its own purposes.

✓ *The Book of Saints: A Day-by-Day Illustrated Encyclopedia* \*

For the entire year, this book briefly presents the saint(s) associated with each day, tells the reader their story, and presents some beautiful images related to the figures at hand. However, it should be noted that this book does not contain ALL the saints associated with each day, but a limited number of the most

notable ones.

✓ *Book of the 24 Philosophers*

In this short work the opinions of several (nameless) philosophers on what constitutes a divine entity, a "god", are succinctly presented. Although it is possible to identify at least some of them, the original work does not contain that identification.

✓ *Book of the Secret Supper*

Also known as *The Questions of John*, among other names, this Cathar scripture has John ask Jesus several questions during a celestial supper. Their answers reveal some dualistic beliefs, with Satan and God taking opposing sides, and the first one being presented as if he was the "evil" deity of the Old Testament, contrasted with the "good" godly figure of the New Testament.

✓ *The Book of the SubGenius* \*

The bible of the "Church of the SubGenius" religion. The work, in itself, is very hard to describe or accurately judge, but it can perhaps be noted that if you are interested in unusual religions, and perhaps



also in fun-and-strange works, this definitely deserves to be given a look.

✓ *Book of Tobit*

An apocryphal book of the Old Testament, a tale of a man who sticks to his faith even after God had seemingly forgot about him and his past good deeds. It contains a few curious magical elements.

✓ *Brasões das cidades e vilas de Portugal*

This manuscript of an unknown date presents the coats of arms of many old cities and villages from Portugal, along with their succinct description and, very infrequently, allusions to potential legends behind the figures there depicted.

✓ *Breve relação de alguns prodígios que sucederão no Imperio da China no anno de 1668*

Written shortly after the year of 1668, this letter-length document preserves some strange occurrences that happened in China during that year. I could not find out who wrote this report, or why, which raises the possibility they may have written many others too.

✓ *Bundahishn*

A work, seemingly composed in the Iran of the VIII century AD, which presents many elements from earlier Zoroastrianism. It is hard to find out what, if anything, was changed across the centuries, but at least in this current version the work preserves the essential elements of the cosmogony and cosmology of such a notable religion.

✓ *Cantar de Mio Cid*

The oldest epic poem from Spain, retelling the adventures of the hero El Cid in a subtle mixture of fact and fiction. However, it has close to none magical or fantastic elements, with the only notable exception being the appearance of Saint Michael in a hero's dream.

✓ *Canticle of Saint Eulalia*

From the end of the IX century, this is apparently the oldest piece of french hagiographical composition, and it succinctly reports the life and martyrdom of Saint Eulalia of Mérida.

✓ *Cantigas de Santa Maria*

Most of the songs presented here are either in praise of the Virgin Mary or featuring some of the miracles she (supposedly) performed. However, some of them do feature information related to the Antiquity, like stories related to Julian the Apostate, among others. They're not exactly "historical", but it is still interesting to see how those events are reimagined in order to include some kind of connection to the ascended mother of Jesus.

✓ *Carfyllidis interrogationes et responsa*

A collection of 39 short questions and answers of a philosophical nature, in a bilingual Ancient Greek and Latin.

✓ *Carmen ad senatorem ex Christiana religione ad idolorum servitutem conversum*

A letter, in poem form, written by an undisclosed person to a senator who had seemingly abandoned Christianity in favour of the sacred rites of Isis. The author briefly mocks Paganism and then extols his religion, urging the senator to go back on his mistake.

✓ *Carmen Arvale*

A ritual once sung by the Arval Priests of Ancient Rome, in an archaic form of Old Latin. It seems to be untranslatable, or at least its real meaning was lost across the centuries.

✓ *Carmen Campidoctoris*

Apparently the earliest poem on the feats of the Spanish medieval hero "El Cid". In its current form, it has around 33 quatrains, which quickly refer to the feats of the hero and his battle apparel.

✓ *Cartas de Amor de Fernando Pessoa e Ofélia Queiroz*

These are love letters exchanged between the Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa and his only known girlfriend. Some are a bit strange, but they provide a very unusual, and yet significantly interesting, view into the mind and life of such author. I know an Italian translation of them exist too, but I am unaware of any English ones.

✓ *Catalogo dos Livros que Pertenceram ao Fallecido Ilustre Visconde de Juromenha*

A catalogue of books left back after a viscount died in

Portugal, in the year of 1887. Perhaps important for readers to spot what famous books existed at that point in time.

✓ *Catholic Rites of Exorcism, Volume 1 & 2*

This work presents translated copies of a few different rites of exorcism. It'd certainly be better if they had made them available together with the original text in Latin, but at least they're now translated.

✓ *Chaldean Oracles* (f)

Fragmentary sequences from a seemingly important Neoplatonist poem. It is impossible to follow any possible plot, but at least we know that it mentioned a few gods here and there.

✓ *Cheuelere Assigne*

Also known as "Knight of the Swan", this is a succinct medieval english version of the backstory of that (somewhat) famous knight.

✓ *Chronica da Conquista do Algarve*

A brief chronicle stating how in the XIII century the Christians conquered several cities in the area of

Algarve, in Portugal. It contains some brief references to the origin of some place names.

- ✓ *Chronica da Fundação do Moesteiro de São Vicente de Lixboa*

Although, oddly enough, this chronicle does not state how the saint's body was brought to Lisbon, it provides some background information on the conquest of the city and some on how Saint Vincent's monastery was founded there. It also talks extensively, through three chapters, about the legend of the knight Henry of Bonn.

- ✓ *Chronicas Breves e Memorias Avulsas de S. Cruz de Coimbra*

Four short medieval chronicles. The first covers world history from the beginning of the world until the first monarchs of Portugal, with some significant focus on Afonso Henriques, the first king. The second presents a more continuous story, specially on Afonso Henriques and his son Sancho I. The third is a more detailed story of the life and deeds of Afonso Henriques. The fourth presents the deeds of Afonso Henriques (including some not presented in the previous

chronicles), some of Sancho I, and then very limited information on the other kings until Dinis. They contain very few references to legends.

✓ *Chronicle of Alfonso III*

A medieval chronicle comprising the period of time from King Wamba (672 AD) up to the beginning of the period of Alfonso III (866 AD), reporting what happened in the Iberian Peninsula during that specific period of time. A simple report, but which still has the time to quote a few biblical phrases and events here and there.

✓ *Chronicle of Edessa*

A sum-up of all the main events which took place in Edessa until the mid VI century AD. Overall, and with one or two exceptions, the information provided here is very limited, essentially focusing on succinct elements such as the dates – sometimes, going as far as day and month – in which the bishops of this city died.

✓ *Chronicle of 754*

This chronicle written in the aforementioned year is

apparently the oldest extant document on the actions of the Muslims near and in the Iberian Peninsula. For some reason, it also presents a few occasional references to prophecies and strange occurrences.

✓ *Chronicon Lusitanum*

A short chronicle of Lusitania, from around 311 AD to the middle of the reign of Afonso Henriques (in the XII century). What is particularly interesting about it are the facts that it is ordered chronologically, and the reports of all the events are very short, resuming all the happenings to the bare minimum and, in some cases, going as far as giving the precise date of some specially important occurrences.

✓ *Ciris* \*

A poem once attributed to Virgil, regarding the myth of Scylla. Although the author presents the monstrous figure too, he makes it clear that his poem is about Nisus' daughter instead, who is later turned into a bird for the role she played in her own father's death.

✓ *Classic of Poetry* \*

The oldest extant collection of poetry from China,



claimed to have been compiled by Confucius. The 305 poems which compose it, although short (as seems to be typical of the genre in the country), have a certain beautiful charm.

✓ *Code of Hammurabi* \*

One of the oldest law codes still extant in our day and age. Usually, its entries go around the lines of "If X happens, then do Y". It is particularly interesting for us to see what kind of legal boundaries were being set back then.

✓ *Codex Magliabechiano*

A codex from the middle of the XVI century, preserving some cultural beliefs from the Aztecs, as seen by Spanish priests. What makes this work specially noteworthy is that it contains a lot more images than text, with the latter essentially explaining what the images present.

✓ *Coena Cypriani*

This work in prose, which I once translated to English, presents a fictional marriage that is attended by many biblical figures. Then, some kind of situation unfolds

and we are told how each of the guests reacted to it. What is specially important is that those actions repeatedly offer some kind of connection to the biblical text, e.g. when picking some clothes Jesus selects some alike of a dove, in an almost evident reference to the Holy Ghost, and at one point Cain kills himself (as opposed to killing someone else, like his brother). It's a short work, and yet unexpectedly funny, if you manage to understand all the intertextualities it contains.

✓ *Colloquia Monacensia–Einsidlensia*

A compilation of common life texts produced in the Antiquity, to help Greek-speaking audiences learn Latin. They are very simple, as you'd expect from today's texts used to help people learn new languages.

✓ *Colloquium Celtis*

Some texts created in the Antiquity to help Greek-speaking audiences learn Latin, just like the one above and the ones below. This one can perhaps be noted for briefly noting some of the authors students learned in their classes.

✓ *Colloquium Harleianum*

Some common life texts produced in the Antiquity to help Greek-speaking audiences learn Latin. This one deserves to be noted for a sequences in which it teaches its readers to properly threaten and insult others.

✓ *Colloquium Leidense-Stephani*

A common-life text produced in the Antiquity, to help people who spoke Greek learn Latin. The content of the text, in itself, is a simple one, but it also contains some out-of-context words and expressions to help a potential student learn even more from the whole thing.

✓ *Colloquium Montepessulanum*

Another similar text, this one presenting multiple small texts designed to help Greek speakers learn Latin.

✓ *Colloquium Stephani*

Another text produced in the Antiquity to help people who spoke Greek learn Latin. This one deserves to be noted for presenting a very brief and simple retelling of the Trojan War.

✓ *Cologne Mani-Codex* \*

A codex containing some details, seemingly in the first person, related to the life and works of Mani, the founder of Manicheism. The parts I read were partially fragmentary, with some sections being more complete than others, and the latter are actually quite intriguing.

✓ *Community Rule* \*

The *Dead Sea Scrolls* seem to contain at least two different texts under this same name. Identified as "IQS, 4Q255-64, 4Q280, 286-7, 4Q502, 5QII, 13" and "4QS<sup>d</sup>= 4Q258", these are naturally a set of rules designed to manage the local community. They are kind of boring to read by a general audience, unless the person is specifically studying the topic.

✓ *Confessions of a Medium*

Apparently written at the height of popularity of Spiritism in Europe, this book details the mental and personal journey of someone who was first a sceptic and later becomes a believer, only to eventually find out that Spiritism is really all a sham. It is particularly

interesting for the way in which the main character is slowly and across time introduced to all the tricks of the trade, as the reader itself also gets to learn how many of the mediums' supposed powers actually function in a more realistic plane. A potential must-read for people who, nowadays, still want to believe in the ideas behind Spiritism.

✓ *Constituição Política da Ilha Encoberta*

Published in the year of 1823, I am unsure on what to think of this text. By referencing an "Ilha Encoberta", it may be connected with a famous legend from Portugal, but its content in itself appears to suggest the creation of a specific kind of government. Is it tacitly satirical, or is it more serious than I could think? I am still absolutely unsure of it.

✓ *Contest of Homer and Hesiod*

Beginning with a very short biography of the two poets and ending with the reports of their legendary deaths, this is essentially a poetic contest between them, displaying the poetry of Homer as one of war and that of Hesiod as focusing more on times of peace. The winner is likely not who you'd expect.

✓ *Culex*

Once attributed to Virgil, this is an extremely intriguing poem about a gnat who is accidentally killed when saving a shepherd's life. Afterwards, the spirit of the gnat comes back into this world and reports everything he saw in the afterlife.

✓ *Contos de Fadas e Lobisomens* \*

A fairly short compilation of tales in Portuguese, containing some stories which are nowadays famous all over the world. However, what is particularly noteworthy about it is the fact that the author significantly adapted the originals, adding fairies and werewolves to tales such as *Red Riding Hood* and *Puss in Boots*.

✓ *Contos Tradicionais da CPLP* \*

This small compilation presents a few stories collected from multiple countries that speak Portuguese. They're clearly adapted and simplified for children, and although I was unable to obtain that edition, there's seemingly one which also contains all these stories recorded in an oral form.

- *Conversação nocturna que teve o réu Francisco Mattos Lobo com a sombra de Diogo Alves*
- ✓ *Conversaçam nocturna que tiveram dois candieiros da illumination da cidade, sendo um de gaz e outro dos antigos, de azeite*

Written in the middle of the XIX century, this is a short, and evidently fictional, conversation between the two kinds of city lamps used at the time. Perhaps it is noteworthy for the fact it allows readers to realize how those technological improvements were seen at the time.

- ✓ *Correspondence of Paul and Seneca*

Supposedly, there is an extant exchange of letters between Paul of Tarsus and Seneca (the philosopher), where the latter compliments many aspects of the former's writing and ideology. However, if you actually go and read them, you'll easily notice that they are pious forgeries, given their content and the way in which they present it.

- ✓ *Cortes Primeiras Que El Rey Dom Afonso*

*Heriquez celebrou em Lamego (...)*

Only published in 1641, this work allegedly preserves what the first king of Portugal, and his court, did and said in their very first meeting. It contains the very basic laws they supposedly created back then, but chances are high that this is just a forgery.

✓ *Crónica Breve do Arquivo Nacional*

A very brief narration of the lives of the first kings of Portugal, from Afonso Henriques to Dinis, essentially reporting when each of them was born, which offspring they had, and when they died.

✓ *Cupido Amans*

A small poem about Cupid himself falling in love.

✓ *Cura Sanitatis Tiberii*

This short-ish text presents a cure which Tiberius supposedly went through via the Veil of Veronica. Naturally, it is a pseudonymous text, and has no basis in reality at all.

✓ *The Curse of Akkad*

From Mesopotamia, this poem explains how the empire



of Akkad fell. Its destruction is attributed directly to the gods being angry at human actions, in a short mythological story.

✓ *De las costumbres antiguas de los naturales de Pirú*

Of unknown authorship, this work preserves for us some of the traditions – religious, cultural, etc. – of the natives of Peru, as catalogued by the Spanish in what seem to have been the first decades of their conquests in South America.

✓ *Dead Sea Scrolls* \*

Contains lots of now-lost information on works related to Judaism. To me, most of them don't seem to be as interesting as the (Christian) ones from the Nag Hammadi Library, but they do preserve information on some sects<sup>4</sup> of that religion as they existed before the first centuries of our era.

✓ *The Death of Gilgamesh*

---

4 This word, here and elsewhere in this book, is used without any kind of pejorative meaning.

This work from Sumer is available only in a very fragmentary form, but over its multiple versions it does retain three particularly interesting elements – some deeply poetic phrases concerning the true meaning of life and death, an explanation of why human beings have to die, and some references to Gilgamesh being awarded the task of being a future judge among the dead.

✓ *The Death of Pilate, who Condemned Jesus*

A short story, telling how Pilate was brought to Rome and eventually killed himself, following the plot with what happened to his corpse afterwards.

✓ *Debate Between Bird and Fish*

This somewhat informal debate begins with the small creation story of birds and sheep, coming from Sumer, in which we're introduced to the two opponents. Then, the plot continues with arguments which almost seem to resemble direct insults, until the Bird eventually wins.

✓ *Debate Between Date Palm and Tamarisk*

Supposedly, this text from Sumer would present a

debate between Date Palm and Tamarisk, likely discussing which of the two is best for mankind. However, it seems only less than 20 lines reached us, presenting a single fragmentary argument from each of the two opponents.

✓ *Debate Between Hoe and Plough*

A text from Sumer in which these two items fight over which of them is more useful to mankind. The Hoe is selected by the local gods as the winner.

✓ *Debate Between Sheep and Grain*

Starting with a small creation story from Sumer, which leads us back to a time where there was neither sheep nor grain. After they are created by the gods, they eventually drink wine and beer, and then discuss which of the two is most useful to mankind. The gods eventually select Grain as the winner.

✓ *Debate Between Silver and Copper*

In this text from Sumer Silver and Copper debated which of the two is more useful to mankind.

Unfortunately, it is preserved in a very fragmentary state, meaning that although Copper seems to have

won in the end, the arguments of both adversaries are often very difficult to understand.

✓ *Debate Between Winter and Summer*

Yet another text from Sumer. This one begins with the creation of Winter and Summer, following which there seems to be a slight physical confrontation (the text is a bit fragmentary in the passage). Then they debate which of the two is more useful to mankind, and although Winter wins, they appear to become good friends afterwards.

✓ *Decretum Gelasianum*

This small text contains one of the earliest references to the biblical canon, along with a listing of texts that should be considered apocryphal. I always found it interesting that the work usually named *Shepherd of Hermas* was placed under that second category, after being highly praised in the previous centuries.

✓ *Descent of Ishtar to the Underworld*

This Akkadian text is certainly related to the Sumerian *Inana's Descent to the Underworld*. However, I felt this one was better conserved, and made it much easier for

the reader to understand the plot. And, although their general spirit is very similar, one should realize that the plot of both these texts is not precisely the same.

✓ *Dhammapada*

This is essentially a collection of the teachings of the Buddha. According to the legend, each of them was spoken during a very specific circumstance in his life, but the edition I read did not mention any of those occurrences.

✓ *Dialogue between a Man and His God*

Written in Akkadian, this is apparently the earliest text on the problem of why the gods permit evil. It is a small text, and it is also fragmentary, but one can understand it contains at least an argument by the anonymous man, and an answer back from his god. Unfortunately, both sides of the question aren't very easy to understand now.

✓ *Dialogue of Athanasius and Zacchaeus*

A small dialogue defending Christianity against Jews, from the 4th century of our era.

✓ *Dialogue of Mary and Aros on the Magistry of Hermes*

A small extract, supposedly presenting part of the teachings of Mary the Jewess, an alchemist from the first century of our era. The sequence provides some limited information on her working processes.

✓ *Dialogue of Simon and Theophilus*

Another small dialogue defending Christianity against Jews, this one from the 5th century AD. It is the oldest one preserved in Latin.

✓ *Dialogue of Timothy and Aquila*

Like the previous two, this one is also a dialogue defending Christianity against Jews. It apparently comes from the 6th century. It is much longer than the previous two mentioned above, and in addition it also contains a mildly interesting plot line framing the debate itself.

✓ *Dicionário Etimológico da Mitologia Grega* \*

Seemingly a translation of the original *Dizionario Etimologico della Mitologia Greca multilingue On Line*, which may also be available in English, this work

contains the name of over 900 mythological figures, briefly presents them, and then mentions the etymology behind their names.

✓ *Digenes Akritis*

A byzantine epic on a non-mythological subject. I read it essentially to see how the classical forms were reused in a non-mythological work.

✓ *Disputatio perjucunda, qua anonymus probare nititur Mulieres Homines non esse*

Evidently satirical, this work from the late XVI century attempts to prove that women are not human beings by means of the Bible, classical and medieval sources. The idea is a bit amusing, but not as funny as you're possibly imagining.

✓ *Dittos Portuguezes Dignos de Memoria* \*

Seemingly compiled in the first half of the XVII century, this anonymous work contains a ton of small stories related to people known in Portugal from the time, some of them more famous than others. At the end of the work you can also find a small chapter with quotes famous from the Antiquity and other sources.

- ✓ *Documentação Crítica de Fátima: Selecção de documentos (1917-1930)*

A collection of contemporary documents about the miracles of Fátima, in Portugal, containing a lot of information which is usually unknown even among believers.

- ✓ *Dojoji Engi Emaki*

An illustrated manuscript from XVI century Japan, which tells the legend of Kiyohime and Anchin. The text is very simple, but the work deserves being mentioned due to the fact that it complements the plot with beautiful drawings of the whole story.

- ✓ *Donation of Constantine*

A document of significant importance in the history of the Western World, since it was used by the Church to claim they owned many lands. For the casual reader, perhaps its most noteworthy element is the fact it contains a different version of the episode behind Constantine's conversion.

- ✓ *Dragon King Sutra*



A very simple sutra from the Buddhists, in general perhaps the most notable thing to learn from it is that legendary creatures, such as dragons and garudas, were also supposed to reincarnate, just like human beings do.

✓      *The Dream of the Rood*

In this medieval poem from England a man dreams of Christ's cross, which here tells its own and complete story in the first person, even prophesying the Apocalypse at the end of time. Certainly noteworthy for its uniqueness.

✓      *Dumuzid's Dream*

This Sumerian poem presents Dumuzid as he tries to run away from the demons of the underworld, who are trying to capture him. He is warned about this chase in a dream, but ultimately fails to avoid his appointed fate.

✓      *Dumuzid and Enkimdu*

In this Sumerian poem two characters, one a shepherd and another a deity associated with farming, succinctly debate which of the two arts would most benefit the

goddess Inana, and so be judged worthy of marrying her. Strangely, although Dumuzid ends up being the one who marries the goddess, the two debaters also become friends.

✓ *Eclogue of Theodulus*

A dialogue, in Latin Verse, in which Falsehood and Truth fight each other. What is particularly interesting is that they do so by referencing thematic links between Latin Myths and the Old Testament. For example, if Falsehood makes a mythical allusion to the Greek myth of Deucalion, Truth could then answer it by mentioning the similar example of Noah, and so on.

✓ *Egidéa*

An epic poem, written near the end of the XVIII century, about "Frei Gil", a XIII century religious man from Portugal who, according to the legend, made a pact with demons. The poem, in itself, is far from enjoyable or beautiful, despite the fact it illustrates all the main elements of the legend.

✓ *Eighth Book of Moses*

Essentially a Greco-Egyptian Grimoire, written in the

first few centuries of our era. Contains a summoning ritual, along with two very similar theogonies.

✓ *The Eloquent Peasant*

A story from Ancient Egypt, in which a peasant eloquently defends his rights against a theoretically more powerful – and yet, unlawful – opponent.

✓ *Enmerkar and En-suhgir-ana*

This Sumerian legend presents a confrontation between the Lord of Aratta and Enmerkar. It starts with some insults and taunts (some of them a bit funny by our modern standards), and proceeds with some other misdeeds and a magical confrontation by a river (which somewhat reminded me of the one of Jannes and Jambres against Moses), ending with the death of one of the magical intervenors, but making the plot seem incomplete.

✓ *Enuma Elish*

Best known simply as the “Babylonian Creation Myth”, this text preserves the deeds of Tiamat and her eventual battle against Marduk. But, perhaps most of all, it seems to be a short epic poem praising the

deeds of the god Marduk, as it even ends with a reference to his 50 names/titles.

✓ *Epic Cycle* (f)

The “Epic Cycle” could best be defined as a continuous mythological story that went from the creation of the world all the way up to Odysseus’ death, according to what Photius of Constantinople tells us about Proclus’ now-lost *Chrestomathy*. Apart from the Homeric *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, this included many other poems which are now almost entirely lost. There are, however, several compilations of their extant fragments, which allow us to gain some insight on their original content, one very interesting for the study of the early versions of some particular myths.

✓ *Epic of Anzu*

This Old Babylonian text preserves a story with some very unique elements. In a nutshell, the Anzu Bird (despite the name, apparently not the same figure as the one from *Lugalbanda and the Anzud Bird*) steals the “Tablet of Destinies”, which gives him ultimate power. The fear this power instils on the gods themselves, along with the unusual abilities that Anzu

later displays in the battle against Ninurta, reminded me that some aspects of modern fiction have a surprisingly long history behind them.

✓ *Epic of Atrahasis*

This short and very fragmentary Akkadian epic presents the creation of mankind and how the gods decided to punish it by sending a huge flood, after which Atrahasis is warned and told to build an ark. This plot is particularly interesting due to the resemblance between this Atrahasis and the (now famous) Noah of Jewish and Christian tales.

✓ *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

Certainly famous as being among the oldest works of fiction (but certainly not *the* oldest...), it deserves to be read due to its role in the history of world literature. Don't get me wrong, it is also an interesting mythological text, preserving one of the oldest complete mentions to a deluge similar to Noah's, but its enormous cultural value certainly transcends those specific features.

✓ *Epic of King Gesar*

An epic from Tibet and/or Bhutan, with the number of episodes and their content seemingly varying from version to version. The one I read, translated by Robin Kornman, basically covered the hero's (then future) birth, his early adventures, and his seemingly famous horse race. One of the most curious aspects of this version is an extended description of the hero's horse.

✓ *Epistle of Barnabas*

An early work which seemingly almost made it into the canon, it is particularly noteworthy for presenting the idea that the Old Testament had metaphorical interpretations which predicted the coming of Christ.

✓ *Epistle to Diognetus*

Perhaps one of the earliest works defending Christianity.

- *Eugnostos the Blessed*
- *Fact or Fiction: Science Tackles 58 Popular Myths*

✓ *Fascist Voices – Essays From the 'Fascist Quarterly' 1936-1940* \*

A compilation of some articles on Fascism, written by fascists before the Second World War. One of them, written pseudonymously and titled *The Jewish Myth*, is here particularly noteworthy, as it shows that Judaism may not have been the first monotheistic religion.

✓      *First Book of Enoch*      \*

One of several apocryphal books related to the Old Testament, in this one Enoch reveals some of the many mysteries he testified while in the Kingdom of Heavens. Overall, the book can be divided into four almost-independent sections, with the first of them certainly being the most famous, given the fact it appears to retell the (obscure) biblical story in which the Nephilim mate with the daughters of Men and generate beings akin of Giants.

✓      *Florida Man: The Weirdest and Wildest  
Adventures of an Internet Legend*

I was expecting this work to be a collection of “legends” associated with the famous internet meme that goes under the name of “Florida Man” but, instead, it just provides readers with a title and one news article for each day of the year. That’s funny for

about five minutes.

✓ *Floris and Blancheflour*

A short, and yet charming, medieval poem, depicting the love story of the two titular characters. Although the plot is essentially a very simple one, the beauty of the feelings of the two heroes may have contributed to popularize this poem extensively in the Middle Ages.

✓ *Foral da Vila de Oeyras (...)*

A document regarding the constitution of the village now named Oeiras, in Portugal. Unlike I expected, it does not contain any information regarding its coat of arms, and it's almost pure and simply a document of a legal nature.

✓ *Friar Rush*

From the end of the XV century, this is the story of a demon who becomes a man and introduces himself inside a monastery, causing many problems. He later goes into more adventures, but this first episode of the whole plot seems to be the most notable and famous one, and depending on the version you read you may be able to find more – or less – episodes



complementing it.

✓ *Garuda Purana*

On the Hindu rituals related to death, and what exists for the good and bad in the afterlife. From a mythological standpoint, the description of the realms of the dead and the punishments held there, presented in the initial chapters, are certainly the most interesting parts of the work.

✓ *Gilgamesh and Aga*

In my personal opinion, this is one of the least interesting Sumer poems regarding Gilgamesh. Essentially, it presents the hero involved in a short war, alongside with his "servant" Enkidu.

✓ *Gilgamesh and the Bull of Heaven*

This text from Sumer preserves a partial account of the confrontation between Gilgamesh and the vengeful Bull of Heaven sent by the goddess Inana. Although many sections from it are fragmentary, at least a reader is able to understand the essential elements of the plot.

✓ *Gilgamesh and Huwawa*

Also from Sumer, this is an extended version of the confrontation between Gilgamesh and the monster later called "Humbaba". In one of the two versions I had access to the text is in almost perfect shape, with the story being easily understood and without any significant sequence of missing lines.

✓ *Gilgamesh, Enkidu and the Underworld*

The story present here is slightly different from the main one of the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, but does resemble its tablet XII. After a brief presentation of the adventure, Enkidu descends into the underworld and is captured there. By the request of Gilgamesh, he is eventually brought back to life, and the two heroes have a small and formulaic dialogue regarding how different kinds of people are received in the Underworld, i.e. "so-and-so happens to those who have one child, so-and-so happens to those who have multiple children, so-and-so happens to those who were burned by fire", and so on.

✓ *Gospel According to Mary*

A gnostic gospel, with its remaining lines essentially

depicting some discussions of a potentially theological nature. However, it is not clear, from the remaining content, which character named Mary gave the name to this text.

✓ *Gospel According to Philip*

Part of the Nag Hammadi Library, this gospel does not contain a real plot, but instead features teachings specific to a now unknown gnostic sect. The text is perhaps best known for the fact it contains a phrase stating that Jesus Christ used to kiss Mary Magdalene in the mouth, hinting – at least, for today's readers – at a romantic relationship between the two.

✓ *Gospel According to Thomas*

A collection of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus. Although many of them do occur in other sources (such as the synoptic gospels), others are unknown to us except from this unique source, and in some cases their meaning is even extremely obscure.

✓ *Gospel of Barnabas*

A very late, supposedly even post-islamic (some of its sections mention Muhammad), apocryphal gospel,

which focuses most of all on doctrine, despite repeating all the main New Testament episodes you'd expect from a gospel. However, it is also noteworthy for the fact God turns Judas into Jesus at the end, leading him to be crucified, while Jesus himself is taken to heaven and eventually revealed to be (just?) a prophet.

✓ *Gospel of Jesus' Wife*

A very short fragment, perhaps only known for seemingly presenting the idea that Jesus had a wife. It is supposedly a forgery.

✓ *Gospel of Judas*

This isn't a "Gospel According to Judas", meaning that nobody ever argued that the betrayer of Jesus was the one who wrote it himself. Instead, this gnostic work presents the theory that Judas Iscariot may have betrayed Christ because the latter asked him to. I always felt that such a theory does make a lot of sense – if the Son of God was expected to die for mankind's sins, *someone* had to be the instrument of such death, even if someone wants to claim "Yes, *but* he did it for the money", which can be countered by "... which he

later returned” – but such opinion was, and still is, promptly discarded by most believers. It is not an easy text to read, unless the person attempting to do so already has, at the very least, some basic knowledge of gnostic literature.

✓ *Gospel of Nicodemus (i.e. Acts of Pilate)*

This famous apocryphal gospel starts with Jesus' audience with Pontius Pilate (in which some of the people he healed testify on his behalf), and continues all the way up to some post-resurrection events. In some versions, the text even includes an amazing sequence in which Jesus descends into Hell, releasing those who were captive there, from Adam to the thief who had been crucified alongside Jesus a few hours before.

✓ *Gospel of Peter*

What remains of this apocryphal gospel essentially present us an account of the punishment, death and resurrection of Jesus. Its most noteworthy element is certainly the fact it presents the cross itself as speaking, when Christ is about to leave his grave.

✓ *Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew*

An apocryphal gospel telling the backstory of the parents of Jesus, and allegedly written by James, a son of Joseph. Among other curious information, it contains a miracle related to a palm tree, similar to one also presented in the Koran.

✓ *Gospel of Truth*

Part of the Nag Hammadi Library, and perhaps by the Valentinians, this is a work that seems to fuse the biblical redemption of Jesus with its more mystic implications.

✓ *O Grande Livro de São Cipriano ou o Tesouro do Feiticeiro*

This book, which also exists in multiple languages in many different forms, is a grimoire (falsely) attributed to Saint Cyprian of Antioch. It does present some interesting elements here and there, from a purely anthropological standpoint, but its most noteworthy point, at least in Portuguese-speaking cultures, is certainly the fact this is the most famous of all grimoires available to us today. Besides, even if its many spells work (which I did not test), there's

something very funny about it – if you read it carefully, it does contain many complete absurdities in its rituals, such as when the author tells us that ghosts and demons can only be seen, or affect us, if we already believe in them.

✓ *Grandes Portugueses* [1-17]

This is a collection of short books on some notable historical figures from Portugal. Although they tend to be poor in their content, their quality improves for the later volumes. These are the main figures from each book – 1) Dom Fuas Roupinho; 2) Fernão Lopes; 3) Dom Gualdim Pais; 4) Gil Vicente; 5) Duarte Pacheco Pereira; 6) Luís de Camões; 7) Infante Dom Henrique; 8) São João de Brito; 9) Dom Afonso Henriques; 10) Heróis da tomada de Lisboa; 11) Afonso de Albuquerque; 12) Marquês de Pombal; 13) Santo António de Lisboa; 14) O Santo Condestável; 15) São João de Deus; 16) Dom João de Castro; 17) Dom Francisco de Almeida.

✓ *Greek Anthology*

This is a collection of epigrams and poems from Greek and Byzantine times. It contains many wonderful

pearls of knowledge, composed by several different authors and coming from a wide variety of sources.

✓ *The Grimoire of Pope Honorius*

A grimoire falsely attributed to the Pope Honorius III. It is likely from the XVI century, and can be considered as an example of christian magic, but it contains some ridiculous sequences, which I couldn't help but laugh at, such as when a spirit is supposed to be bribed with a random stone, or when, likely being unaware of the meaning of a name in another list, the author explains how to summon, among many angels and spirits, that of Saint Peter himself.

✓ *Guia da Exposição do Mundo Português*

A short guidebook to the world exhibition of 1940 in Portugal. Although it does not say much about each of the attractions, it does allow readers to see what were considered the most important historical figures and artefacts presented in the exhibition.

✓ *Handing Over of Pilate*

A potential sequel to the *Report of Pontius Pilate*, in which Pilate is brought to Rome and tried for



supposedly having convicted Jesus.

✓ *Hanuman Nataka* \*

A play version of the *Ramayana*, with some small changes over the original epic.

✓ *Harris's List of Covent-Garden Ladies, or Man of Pleasure's Kalender* \*

Compiled multiple times across the years in the XVIII century, this unusual book succinctly presents and reviews the “women of pleasure” who were available in Covent Garden at the time. Although the idea is certainly intriguing, the work, in itself, isn’t a very amusing one.

✓ *Heike Monogatari* \*

A XIII century epic in prose from Japan, narrating the war between two clans for the control of the country. What makes it specially interesting is perhaps the fact there’s no one main hero but many different ones, and some even die across the work. Besides, the work also contains many buddhist ideas all across it, which may have been added later over the original composition.

✓ *Historia Augusta*

A compilation of biographies of some Roman Emperors, with disputed and various authorships.

✓ *História da Donzela Teodora*

A work released in XVIII century Portugal, but seemingly based on older medieval versions with unknown authorship. Basically, the titular Theodora disputes her wisdom with three wise men (and a king), in a tradition which ultimately seems to date all the way back to the Antiquity.

✓ *History of Joseph the Carpenter*

This apocryphal gospel contains the full story of Joseph, retold to the reader from the point of view of Jesus himself. Apart from his backstory, it also reveals what (eventually) happened to him.

✓ *(First) Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*

On how the powers of the goddess of love can't effect either Athena, Artemis or Hestia. It also presents this goddess' love for Anchises, in which are included some other examples of immortals who loved humans.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*

On how Aphrodite was born from the foam of the waves and was soon presented among the other gods.

✓      *(Third) Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite*

This one does not contain any myths; instead, it just praises the goddess of love.

✓      *(First) Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

Among the three longest hymns of this collection, it starts with the birth of Apollo. Then, it follows through with the god's development and his search for a place in which to build his (now famous) oracle, during which he eventually kills the monster Pytho at a site he later has to develop. Also noteworthy in this hymn is the brief reference to its composer as "a blind man from Chios", which may have influenced the idea that Homer himself was a blind poet and had some kind of relationship with that specific island.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Apollo*

As for this hymn, it praises Apollo through the song of the swan, apparently saying the animal, like the god himself, also knows both the past and the future.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Ares*

This is simply a hymn praising the god of war.

✓ *(First) Homeric Hymn to Artemis*

The goddess of the hunt is praised in this one.

✓ *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Artemis*

This hymn essentially focus on Artemis' travels through the forests, but it also references her connection to her brother, Apollo.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Asclepius*

Succinctly praises the god, also mentioning his parentage.

✓ *(First) Homeric Hymn to Athena*

Praising this goddess.

✓ *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Athena*

The unusual birth of Athena from Zeus' head is retold here, and some additional details regarding such event are also mentioned.

✓      *(First) Homeric Hymn to Demeter*

Among the three longest hymns of this collection, this one extensively presents the myth of Demeter and Persephone, including all the adventures the former went through while looking for her daughter.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Demeter*

Simply mentions this goddess and her daughter, Persephone.

✓      *(First) Homeric Hymn to Dionysus*

This short poem makes a small reference to the location of the birth of Dionysus.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Dionysus*

On how this god was once kidnapped by pirates, and performed several miracles on their ship.

✓      *(Third) Homeric Hymn to Dionysus*

As for this one, it retells how the god was raised in a cavern and then roamed across the forests.

✓      *(First) Homeric Hymn to the Dioscuri*

Simply mentions the parentage of Castor and

Polydeuces.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to the Dioscuri*

The parentage of Castor and Polydeuces is again presented here, along with their function of protectors of seamen.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Gaia*

Gaia is extensively praised in this hymn.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Helios*

This god is also extensively praised here, and his parentage is mentioned too.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Hephaestus*

Here the god is praised through the skills that he, along with Athena, taught mankind.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Hera*

This one praises Zeus' famous wife.

✓      *(First) Homeric Hymn to Hermes*

The longest hymn in the collection, it starts with the birth of Hermes and follows with how he created the

lyre and stole Apollo's cattle. His crime is eventually discovered, and Apollo is compensated by being awarded the ownership of the new musical instrument. Hermes is, at the end, given the task he occupies in most myths.

✓      *(Second) Homeric Hymn to Hermes*

The god is praised in this hymn, and the place of his birth is mentioned once more.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Hestia*

Essentially, this one refers the connection between Apollo's temple and Hestia.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Hestia and Hermes*

Strangely, this hymn praises both Hestia and Hermes, connecting them in a subtle way.

✓      *Homeric Hymn to Lion-hearted Heracles*

This short hymn alludes to the fact that Heracles performed many worthy deeds, but it also states he was eventually taken to the heavenly Olympus, where he married Hebe.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to the Mother of the Gods*

This one praises the “mother of all gods and all people”. Although she is never clearly identified by a name, based on the other hymn to the same goddess one can fairly assume Gaia is meant.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to the Muses, Apollo and Zeus*

Despite its long name, this hymn essentially mentions what each of these figures was associated to, in Ancient Greek culture.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Pan*

This slightly longer hymn praises Pan and speaks of his parentage, going as far as stating that this son of Hermes was given this particular name because he had delighted all the gods when he was first presented to them.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Poseidon*

The god is here praised and presented as the deity both associated to the seas and horses. Unfortunately, the hymn does not explain how this unusual duality came to be.



✓ *Homeric Hymn to Selene*

The goddess of the moon is extensively praised in this one, and a small mention is also made to the fact that she had a daughter by Zeus called Pandeia (who, however, does not seem to play a significant role in any extant myths).

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Xenoi*

This hymn only seems to appear in a very small number of editions. It is a little different from the others, in which it essentially reminds people to care for those who need hospitality, instead of praising any particular deity.

✓ *Homeric Hymn to Zeus*

A small one, praising what it calls the "best and greatest of gods".

✓ *How and When "Heaven's Gate" May Be Entered*

A compilation of the materials from the american "Heaven's Gate" religion. It provides plenty of room for thought, from presenting their origin story, to pages describing what they believe in, testimonials from their members, etc. Overall, it is a good work to read if you

want to learn more about their ideas.

✓ *I Ching* \*

One of the most famous classics of China. If simply read, this work is astonishingly strange and boring, but if someone attempts to do so together with a good preface and explanation, they are led to a world of metaphors, hidden meanings and perhaps even a system of divination of yore. Having tried to read and understand this work, I certainly understood why it requires extensive commentaries, as the simple task of attempting to read it is herculean, and the search for meaning in its hexagrams is impressively metaphorical. As such, this work undoubtedly should only be approached with extensive commentaries and explanations to its content.

✓ *I syng of a mayden*

A XV century short hymn from England praising the Virgin Mary and the virgin birth.

✓ *Icones Animalium Quadrupedum Viviparorum et Oviparorum*

This book from the XVI century contains all the

beautiful engravings from the first two volumes of Conrad Gessner's *Historia Animalium*, in some cases also adding some basic information on the animals, and – something I personally found quite amusing – adding to each entry their names in latin, italian, french and german.

### ✓ *Iguvine Tablets*

Originally written in Umbrian, these tablets preserve for us religious rituals from Italy which were seemingly performed between the third and first centuries BC. The content itself is somewhat basic, just sticking to the processes to be followed and the words to be seen, and its most noteworthy element may be the repeated references to multiple deities that we now know very little about.

### ✓ *Inana and Sukaletuda*

In this Sumerian narrative the goddess Inana is raped by the shepherd Sukaletuda when she is sleeping under a tree. Although the goddess has some difficulties tracking down the rapist, she later takes her revenge on him, at the same time admitting that his name is going to be made immortal in songs.

✓ *Inana's Descent to the Underworld*

This Sumerian text presents the goddess Inana's descent to the realm of the dead, for unknown reasons, and how she eventually had to pick someone to occupy her place among the dead. After rejecting some people who, in my personal opinion, could seem more fitting for that trade, she ends up picking her own husband, Dumuzid, an action which does seem to cause her immense pain. Given the context, one has to wonder why she picked him in the first place, but that's a strange issue this work does not seem to address. It should be noted this same tale was later made famous among other cultures, with the goddess being named Ishtar and her husband Tammuz.

✓ *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*

This apocryphal gospel essentially contains some individual stories about Jesus' youth. Depending on the edition you read, you may be able to find more (or less) stories, as the content of the overall document tends to vary widely from manuscript to manuscript.

✓ *Instructions of Shuruppak*

A small, and yet very charming, book from Sumerian times, in which Shuruppak leaves many succinct pieces of advice to his son.

✓ *Isabel e mais Francisca*

A song from XVIII century Portugal, about some young women washing their clothes.

✓ *The Isle of Ladies* \*

A medieval english work about a knight who dreams of an island completely populated by ladies. Overall, the work seems to satirize literary conventions of chivalry, but it is, in my personal view, among the most boring works from the time.

✓ *Itinerarium Antonini Augusti* \*

Essentially a manual, from the first centuries of our era, which mentions the distances between cities of the Roman Empire. It can be specially helpful to note the names of cities and help locate them nowadays.

✓ *Jailhouse Lawyer's Handbook*

I came across this curious book by mere accident, and basically it helps prisoners in the US understand their

legal rights and gain proper access to them. It mentions, here and there, some significant cases that may be profitable to them.

✓ *Jataka Tales* \*

A collection of stories from India about the past existences of Buddha. They all seem to follow a set pattern – the Buddha faces a problem in his current lifetime, he explains how he faced a similar situation in one of his previous lifetimes, and then he mentions how it was solved back then. It contains human and animals stories, some of them coming from traditions of other local cultures – and, apparently, some of them may have even come to Europe during the Middle Ages.

✓ *Jesuit Ratio Studiorum of 1599*

I once read this work hoping that it'd shed some light on the classical literary sources used by the Jesuit schools. Although it features plenty of interesting information related to their educational method, unfortunately it does not contain what I was actually looking for.

✓ Jesus' Correspondence with Abgar<sup>5</sup>

Two short letters, the first coming from King Abgar of Edessa to Jesus, and the second presenting us with Jesus' supposed reply.

✓ *Jigoku-zoshi* \*

A scroll from XII century Japan notable for presenting vivid images of the different hells of Buddhism. It also contains some text, undoubtedly associated with the portrayals, but I was unable to find an edition of it.

✓ *Joseph and Aseneth*

A fictional and short novel from the first centuries of our era, which – in its original version – some authors argue may preserve an encrypted version of Jesus' mystical marriage to Mary Magdalene. If read outside of that theory, although it contains a few strange references here and there, there's nothing too noteworthy about it.

✓ [Sri] *Kalki Purana*

---

5 Naturally, this is not the title of the work itself, but a description of it.

Containing a version of the story of Kalki, Vishnu's tenth and final avatar. If such reincarnation is generally spoken of as coming at the end of time, in this (late, or so I heard?) work it is instead placed as coming in a time of major irreligiousness, and speaks of the adventures of the god from the time it is decided for him to incarnate, up to the moment he goes back to the place he came from. For me, this work also has a particularly noteworthy sequence that recalls, in a very succinct way, the plot of the *Ramayana*.

✓ *Kebra Nagast*

An Ethiopian epic which tells the story that King Solomon had a son by the Queen of Sheba, who later took the Ark of the Covenant to his homeland. The text also speaks of many other Christian myths, but one should take into account it was written around the XIV century, although potentially based on an older Coptic to Arabic translation.

✓ *Key of Solomon*

Falsely attributed to King Solomon (come on, the book even quotes from the New Testament and XV century authors!), this is essentially a grimoire, teaching the



reader almost everything on how to draw pentacles and use them to accomplish magical goals. The second book provides more practical information on magic, particularly how those summons should be done, what instruments to use, what specific concerns you should have with the instruments you use, etc. Naturally, all the information presented here should be taken with a huge grain of salt, even if you're very interested in these subjects.

✓ *Kirishitan Kanagaki* \*

Potentially written by Miguel Chijiwa, this work presents a corrupted and fictional history of Europe and Christianity. Although amusing, it is quite difficult to find a copy of.

✓ *The Kloran of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan* \*

I obtained a copy of this document from the realm of Mississippi, written at an unknown date, and essentially it presents the rituals of the second version of the KKK. It is not a very interesting read, unless you are particularly curious about how their services used to go.

✓ *Kojiki*

Compiled around the beginning of the VIII century, this historical record is the oldest extant literary work from Japan. Through its three volumes, its story goes from the beginning of the world up to the VII century AD. However, it should be noted it is not a completely historical work, since it presents myths almost side by side with factual information. Overall, it is a pleasing work and a very significant source for early Japanese myths and legends, perhaps much more enjoyable than the *Nihongi* (see below).

✓ *Konjaku Monogatarishu*

A collection of hundreds of Japanese medieval tales, about many different subjects – it contains ghost stories, supposedly real reports of many past events, animal tales, among many others.

✓ *The Koran*

I placed this particular work on the initial category because assigning an authorship to it can be complicated – according to Muslim belief, the *Koran* was dictated to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel,

meaning the authorship, depending on how you want to define it yourself, could be assigned to Muhammad, Gabriel, or even Allah himself.

Leaving that problematic point aside, I always felt this could be considered a sort of sequel to the Christian scriptures, as the New Testament itself was seen as a sequel to the “Old” one. It treats Jesus as a prophet along the lines of Adam, Moses, or Solomon, more than as an essentially divine figure.

Unlike many people seem to think nowadays, there’s nothing wrong with this text. It does not incite to violence, or anything like that... or at least not any more than other religious texts do.

#### ✓ *Latin Infancy Gospels*

An apocryphal gospel relating the backstory of Jesus’ earthly family. Its name comes from the fact that it is the oldest compilation of such sort written in Latin.

#### ✓ *Laus Pisonis*

A laudatory poem, of a little over 250 verses, to an unknown member of the Piso family. It contains some mythological references, along with a prolonged sequence reporting part of the game of *latrones*, for

which this is, apparently, the best source currently extant.

✓ *Lay of Kraka*

Also known as *Krakumal*, this XII century poem is a (fictional) monologue in which Ragnar Lothbrok briefly recalls the heroic deeds of his life before dying.

✓ *Lazarillo de Tormes*

A somewhat famous picaresque satirical novel from XVI century Spain. It was clearly censored in the XIX century edition I had access to, since the chapters dealing with more problematic material were unusually short. One certainly has to wonder whether the original work, in the form it was first published, is still available nowadays – I always failed to find any copies which present, for example, the fourth chapter in more than just a few lines, potentially betraying its censorship to readers.

- *Le Grandisseur du Prof. Desbonnet*
- *Legend of Keret*

✓ *Legend of the Ten Martyrs*

The (purely legendary) story of ten jewish martyrs who were killed during the time of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, as a punishment for the ten brothers who sold Joseph in the famous story from the Old Testament. Essentially, after some introductory sequences (and an ascent into heaven), each individual rabbi is introduced, has a small conversation with the emperor, and the method of his individual martyrdom is described.

✓ *Legenda Assidua*

This XIII century work preserves the oldest life of Saint Anthony (of Lisbon and/or Padua). The saint's life, in itself, is fairly short, but it is followed by a report on what happened to his body after his death, and a succinct description of the many miracles which took place after he died.

✓ *Les mystères des lettres grecques*

An anonymous treatise on the symbology of Greek and Hebrew letters, written in Coptic in the year of 1393 AD. It is an interestingly unusual work, but the way in which it treats its subject isn't always as consistent as one would wish. Since this work is not exactly easy to

find, it had to be read in a French translation.

✓ *Lesser Key of Solomon* \*

Likely derivative from the *Key of Solomon* (see above), this book explains how to summon different classes of mystical beings, essentially providing their symbols, some information on each of them, and the prayers that should be used to call upon them and their influence. However, the fact this work is filled with typos and provenly made-up information certainly says a lot about its supposed truth.

✓ *Letter of Herod to Pilate*

A fictional letter in which Herod comments on all the bad things that he was going through after having contributed to the death of Jesus. Particularly interesting is the fact that it depicts Longinus as being punished for having pierced Jesus with his spear, unlike what happens in other versions, in which the same centurion later converts to Christianity.

✓ *Letter of Jeremiah*

An apocryphal text related to the Old Testament, and supposedly written by the Prophet Jeremiah, which

criticizes the gods of the non-jews as completely powerless. Here, the reader can easily notice where early christian writers got their constant idea from.

✓ *Letter of Lentulus*

A letter, supposedly from the first century of our era, in which a Roman official describes the look and some psychological characteristics of Jesus Christ. There are seemingly many versions of this letter, with more or less text, but its real origin is unknown. It is likely a forgery.

✓ *Letter of Pilate to Claudius*

A short fictional letter which Pilate supposedly wrote to the Emperor Claudius on the subject of the trial and resurrection of Christ.

✓ *Letter of Pilate to Herod*

Another fictional letter from Pilate, this one written for King Herod. Essentially, it preserves a supposed appearance of post-resurrection Jesus.

✓ *Letter of Tiberius to Pilate*

This one reports on what happened to Pilate (here

presented as a “bad guy”) and some other people responsible for the death of Jesus.

✓ *Letters of Abelard and Heloise*

To recall the entire medieval story of Abelard and Heloise would be too big of a task for these synthetic lines (if you’re curious about it, read Abelard’s own *Historia Calamitatum*). Instead, it should suffice to explain that at one point in time the two lovers were unable to talk to each other in person any more, and so they exchanged these letters. Their correspondence ended up becoming quite famous in the Middle Ages, and I always felt that one of Heloise’s first letters even preserves extremely beautiful expressions of romantic love.

✓ *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*

It took me almost 20 years to obtain all the volumes of this work, and that undoubtedly shows how hard it is to obtain a fully copy. Regarding the work itself, it certainly provides an enormous amount of information of mythological and iconographic nature – the volumes titled “X.1” present more text, while the ones under the form of “X.2” essentially have related images – but



the articles it presents are randomly written in multiple different languages, and so you may look for an article on so-and-so only to end up noticing it is presented in a language you cannot read (which, truth be told, really happened to me when I decided to look up the hero "Kapaneus"). Barring that essential problem and the difficulty that it is finding the entire collection, this is truly a very interesting work for the study of Classical Myths and how they were portrayed in the Antiquity.

✓ *Liber Monstrorum*

A small book, likely from around the ending of the VII century AD, which can be divided into three different parts – an initial section on monsters (i.e. marvellous creatures), a second one on unusual beasts, and a third on serpent-like animals. What is worthy of notice is that some of these reports fuse mythological retelling and historical accounts as if they were just one and the same.

✓ *Life and Adventures of a Cat*

Published in the middle of the XVIII century, this work is a lot less interesting than one would suppose, with

the titular cat, “Tom”, being almost a tertiary character in the whole adventure. Besides, the plot is far from interesting of pleasing, barring some specific episodes, such as when the anonymous author talks about the (fictional?) origin of the word “cat”.

✓ *Life of Aeschylus*

Maybe there are many anonymous texts with this name; the edition I read had approximately 18 paragraphs, and it contained some brief references to lost plays. However, the most interesting aspect of the work is perhaps the fact it mentions the conditions of an unusual event – if it is widely alleged that during the first presentation of the *Eumenides* some women suffered abortions, this text also adds that some little kids lost consciousness and that all those occurrences took place when the elements of the chorus (of *Eumenides*) were entering the stage one by one.

✓ *Life of Aesop*

Essentially, this is similar to a novel, in which the supposed life of Aesop, author of the famous fables, is retold. However, when reading this work, one certainly has to wonder whether it preserves any real facts

about the famous author, or if it is completely based in fiction alone – the second option seems way more likely, since biographical information on him was very scarce in the Antiquity.

✓ *[Greek] Life of Secundus*

Potentially composed by the intersection of two different sources, this work starts by briefly telling the early life of Secundus, explaining how he encountered and was challenged by the Emperor Hadrian, and then presents the answers to 20 questions asked by the latter to the philosopher himself. Seemingly, those questions came from older sources.

✓ *Lindian Chronicle*

A record of some items once presented in an ancient greek temple before it burned out in the IV century BC, where most seem to have mythological connections. However, this inscription also presents a brief miraculous story directly associated with the goddess Athena and her father.

✓ *The Lion in Search of Man*

An animal fable from the time of Ancient Egypt, about

a lion who repeatedly hears about and seeks a being called “man”, in an attempt to avenge all the misdeeds he is claimed to have performed.

✓ *Lionbruno*

This fictional work from the Middle Ages has at least three versions, which distinguish themselves in some minor elements but appear to retain their most significant elements. The one I read, translated “from the Basilicata, given by Comparetti, No. 41”, appears to make the religious elements less prominent, but retains the main story of the young man who was once saved and loved by a fairy. As of the writing of these lines, I was unable to see, in a direct way, how it contrasts with the versions by Cirino d'Ancona and Vindalino da Spira.

✓ *Lives of the Hellenistic Poets*

Compiled by modern scholars based on information from *scholia*, this short resource presents precisely what its title describes, a basic outline of the lives of some Hellenistic poets.

✓ *Livro que fala da Boa Vida que fez a Rainha de*

*Portugal, Dona Isabel, & de seus bons feitos & milagres em sa vida & depois da morte*

Apparently the oldest source for the life and miracles of the Saint Queen Isabel of Portugal, it preserves not only her life, and some of her husband's, but also a few of the miracles which took place after her death. Given that the author even provides witnesses for those, one has to believe this was indeed written very early on, perhaps even just a few months or years after her death.

✓ *Livro Velho de Linhagens \**

A XIII century work on the genealogy of the main and oldest families from Portugal. Its sources are dubious, but it does seem to allude to some material that could be classified as legends, notably the one of king Ramiro and Gaia, which is here portrayed in an extended form.

✓ *Livros Proibidos Durante o Estado Novo*

A brief work with 38 pages, apparently a catalogue to an exhibition in Coimbra, Portugal, this book presents some of the books once banned in this country, and explains – always in less than one page, and often in a

single paragraph – why they were forbidden at the time. Strangely, most of them seem to have been banned for good reasons, and not just for the sake of mere censorship or political reasons.

✓ *The Lord of Perfect Satisfaction (Ruyijun Zhuan)*

Supposedly written in XVI century China, this small novel tells the story of Wu Zetian, a famous woman empress of that country. However, its most notable element is undoubtedly the fact it contains very vivid depictions of sexual acts and relationships, all of them discussed from a female standpoint and with one as the main figure involved in them.

✓ *Los Brujos de Chiloé. Célebre Proceso del Juzgado de Ancud. Declaraciones de los reos.*

I could not find the author, or editor, behind this transcription, but this short document exists, essentially preserving a summary of the main statements presented in the Chilean case of the Witches of Chiloé. It preserves a brief report on how a significant part of the arts of witchcraft got into the country, through a man from Spain.

✓ *Lugalbanda and the Anzud Bird*

Apparently the sequel to another story of Lugalbanda (see below), this Sumerian text has the hero still living in the mountains. After he pleases the frightening Anzu Bird, he is awarded the power of quickness and returns to the army he was once a part of. Ultimately, the army can't conquer the city they sought, and Lugalbanda is sent to consult the goddess Inana on what to do, which offers him a parable in return. As the other text, this one also seems to be incomplete.

✓ *Lugalbanda in the Mountain Cave*

This Sumerian text tells us the story of Lugalbanda, a soldier of king Enmerkar, who gets sick during a battle and is left to live (or die) in a cavern from a mountain. After praying to three gods (and his prayers, reproduced here, are potentially the most interesting aspect of the work), he captures some animals and in a dream is asked to sacrifice them, but the plot appears to be currently incomplete.

✓ *Lyfe of Virgilius*

An English translation of a French medieval original in which many late legends associated with Virgil are

retold in a continuous form. They essentially portray him as a magician, instead of the poet famous as the author of the *Aeneid*.

✓ *Mabinogion*

A collection of the earliest prose stories from British literature. Among them you are able to find some of the oldest texts related to King Arthur, which later authors appear to have reused in their own works.

✓ *A magia e mais superstições desmascaradas\**

The Portuguese title of this work not available in translation is quite misleading. Although the first part of the book does focus on the subject of magic, it also treats the subject in a very simplistic way. The second part is all about the Inquisition, as if the author, whoever he was, felt he needed another topic to fill the rest of his pages with.

✓ *Manual da Bruxa D'Arruda: Thesouro Precioso de Feiticeria \**

In spite of its title, this book seems to have absolutely nothing to do with the named witch from the Portuguese land of Arruda dos Vinhos. Instead, it is



just a compilation on magic based on some materials available at the time, which may have used the witch's name exclusively to sell more copies.

- ✓ *The Manyoshu: The Nippon Gakujutsu Shinkokai Translation of One Thousand Poems with the Texts in Romaji* \*

A partial translation of the oldest compilation of poems in Japanese, with works seemingly dating up to the VIII century of our era. This work features a little less than one fourth of the original poems, and some of them are undoubtedly charming. However, although there are some references to the gods here and there, I could not find any purely mythological compositions in the compilation as presented here.

- ✓ *Mara Samyutta*

A collection of small confrontations between the Buddha and Mara. They vary considerably in size, with the smaller ones presenting just a situation and an answer to it, while the bigger ones have a much longer plot, in spite of retaining its simple format.

- ✓ *Megillat Taanit*

A small document reporting 35 days of the Jewish calendar in which people were forbidden to fast or mourn. The reasons for those specific dates are explained in an extremely succinct way.

✓ *Merrie Tales of the Mad Men of Gotham*

Published in the middle of the XVI century, this work relates twenty of the funny tales associated with the English village of Gotham. One definitely has to assume that at least some of them are apocryphal, but others are well established in the local legends and are briefly presented here.

✓ *Metamorphosis Flaminis in Gallum*

From the margins of a medieval manuscript of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, this poem presents the transformation of two religious figures of Paganism into a rooster and a hen. Overall, I feel this may be the transformation of sinners into pure beings through the message of Christianity, but such reading of the original is naturally open for debate.

✓ *Mirabilia Urbis Romae*

Apparently first compiled in the middle of the XII

century, this is somewhat of a tourist manual to the city of Rome. It mentions what people should see, and tries to tell some of the stories behind those places, along with a few legends. However, it should be noted that much of the information presented is either incorrect, misleading, or was significantly changed across the centuries.

✓ *Mishnah* \*

A significant compilation of Jewish laws and rules from the first centuries of our era, seemingly concatenated from originally oral sources. It does contain extremely brief stories here and there, but they are very rare and far between. Overall, this is a work that may interest you if you're looking for more information on the evolution of Judaism and its rules.

✓ *Mocedades de Rodrigo*

This poem relates the genealogy and the early feats of one Rodrigo, later named the "El Cid", about which a famous epic was composed. This is a simple poem, of around 1100 verses, with some gaps here and there, likely written to add some early deeds to the famous hero of Spain; it ends in the middle of the story, where

the plot is becoming the most interesting and intriguing to modern readers.

✓ *Moretum*

A small poem, once attributed to Virgil, in which a farmer prepares his meal. But, despite its charm, it is best known for being one of the earliest sources for the Latin expression "e pluribus unum".

✓ *The Mowing-Devil: or, Strange News out of Hartford-shire*

From the second half of the XVII century, this short pamphlet describes a very short but supposedly real story in which the Devil himself mowed a field. Given the fact the author, whoever he was, does not mention the name of anyone involved in the story, the reader clearly has a lot of reasons to doubt this may have ever been real.

✓ *Mu'allaqat*

A compilation of seven pre-islamic poems from Arabia, which according to a sort of legend were once hung from the Kaaba in Mecca. Although they have some profoundly poetic moments, I felt their most curious

element was their portrayal of some elements of the popular life at the time.

- ✓ *Museu da Misericórdia de Cascais: História, Património, Identidade* \*

This book presents the history and some of the exhibits presented in the museum at hand in Cascais, Portugal. It deserves to be noted for the fact that it is beautifully adorned with many photos of the whole place, including some historical ones.

- ✓ *The Museum of Jurassic Technology: Primi Decem Anni, Jubilee Catalogue*

This is a small catalogue with information on some of the exhibitions from the *Museum of Jurassic Technology*, in the US. By coincidence, or perhaps not, the ones represented here seem to be pretty much the same mentioned in Weschler's *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*.

- ✓ *Na Fonte Está Lianor*

A song from XVIII century Portugal, about a young woman by a fountain.

✓      *The Nag Hammadi Scriptures*

A complete edition of the (mostly) gnostic texts found in Nag Hammadi, of which some of the individual texts are also mentioned across this work. Although the edition I read, one edited by Marvin Meyer, provides extensive commentaries and critical notes on all the individual texts, if you're not familiar with the subject you definitely should start by reading Elaine Pagels' *Gnostic Gospels* before focusing on this compilation.

✓      *The Narrative of Joseph of Arimathea*

The text, similar to a small novel, reports an alternative version of the betrayal, death and post-resurrection events of Jesus Christ. It also includes, strangely enough, more information on the backstory and fate of the two thieves crucified along with Jesus Christ.

✓      *Nemo*

This name is given to some fictional texts from the Middle Ages regarding a supposed Saint Nemo. They are essentially parodies of biblical texts, which take *nemo*, or "Nobody", to mean someone's actual name, and so the supposed saint is then associated with

endless events and amazing abilities.

- *Nergal and Ereshkigal*<sup>6</sup> \*

- ✓ *Newes from Scotland*

Apparently from the XVI century, this succinctly reports on some interconnected witchcraft cases which took place in Scotland at that time.

- ✓ *Niciarii interrogationes et responsiones*

A collection of four short questions and answers, the last of which is even incomplete, in a bilingual Ancient Greek and Latin.

- ✓ *Nihongi* \*

The second oldest extant literary source from Japan,

---

6 Here, like elsewhere, if I can recall very little (or close to nothing) about a particular work and my personal notes did not provide me with any particularly relevant information, I'll present its author and name with a round bullet point. Often, but not always, this may also mean that a work has little or no significant mythological content.

an historical work which fuses myth and legend with historical facts. Compared to the oldest (i.e. the *Kojiki*, see above), it seems to report on almost the same events, covering the period from the beginning of the world almost up to the compiler's own age, but it does so in a more extensive way, in some cases even preserves conflicting and/or alternative versions of the very same events. Although more complete than the aforementioned work, I must admit I also found it much less pleasing to an average reader.

✓ *Ninus Romance* (f)

At least two fragments from this Ancient Greek romance seem to have reached us, one in which Ninus proposes the idea of marrying someone, and one in which the same hero heads to war.

✓ *Noticia da Mythologia*

Translated to Portuguese by one "A. J. T." (whoever he is), but apparently based on a French original, this book is a manual of Classical Mythology, formulated through questions and answers. It is very informative, but it should be noted that it preserves a partially Christian view of the original myths, at the very least



based in ideas coming from Lactantius.

✓ *Notícia Sumária do Gentilismo da Ásia*

From the middle of the XVIII century, this manuscript in Portuguese partially preserves some of the most famous legends from India. Strangely, it does not preserve all of them, with the author skipping stories such as Vishnu's buddha avatar. Also, I've seen it in at least two different copies, with one having more images than the other, which is here specially important since some depictions of these legends presented in the book are truly beautiful.

✓ *A Nun's Sermon*

A small medieval poem, exalting a virgin religious life over one of marriage and having kids.

✓ *On the Origin of the World*

Part of the Nag Hammadi Library, this work presents a gnostic creation of the world. It is a very interesting text, filled with metaphors and hidden symbology, but it takes some study to completely understand it and its many nuances.

✓ *Oneirocriticon of Daniel*

A very simple byzantine book on dream interpretation, usually it just follows the basic scheme of “to dream about X means Y”.

✓ *Oneirocriticon of Germanus*

Overall, this byzantine dream interpretation manual can be resumed as stating whether a specific kind of dream is good or bad.

✓ *Oneirocriticon of Manuel II Palaeologus*

This is arguably the most interesting of the byzantine dream manuals, since it presents a listing of different elements that may appear in dreams and extensively explains their individual meanings.

✓ *Oneirocriticon of Nicephorus*

Another byzantine dream interpretation manual, it presents the basic meaning of dreams.

✓ *Oráculo dos Solteiros*

Apparently from the early XX century, this work in Portuguese features a simplistic oracular method to answer love-related questions.

✓ *Origin, Life, Teachings of Yppocrates*

A brief life of Hippocrates, with a little bit of unique information. Perhaps its most noteworthy element is the fact it contains an order of this author's writings, based on unknown sources.

✓ *Origo Gentis Romanae*

A short historiographic work, narrating the story of the Roman people from Saturn's exile from Mount Olympus up to the times of Romulus.

✓ *Orpheus, On Gems (i.e. Lithica)*

I placed this work here because it is attributed to an evidently legendary figure, its real authorship being unknown. Regardless of that initial problem, the *Lithica* is not an easy resource to find (hence why I once decided to translate it to Portuguese), and despite the fact it preserves the supposed magical properties of some gems, along with a few obscure myths, it is not worth tracking down unless you *really* need it for some very specific study.

✓ *Orphic Hymns*

A compilation of almost 90 hymns on mythological subjects, which are certainly very important for all of those who are seeking to explore the topic.

✓ *Pamphilus [de amore]*

Certainly inspired by the creations of Ovid in the subject of love, this small (and satirical) work talks about how a man attempted to woo his beloved one with the help of an old woman. Although it was once a very popular work, to a modern audience it may not seem as enjoyable.

✓ *Panchatantra* \*

An ancient collection of (mostly) animal fables. They certainly deserve to be compared and contrasted with Aesop's. Their most significant element is the fact that across five books (with five different themes), the stories are provided in a continuous way, with a frame storyline connecting all the different stories. It is also noteworthy that some of these made their way to Europe and ended up influencing some western stories in the Middle Ages, e.g. the story of a snake who is actually a man hidden in a beastly skin.

✓ *Parian Chronicle*

This marble essentially contains a chronicle of the Greek Antiquity, from around 1581 BC up to 299 BC. It intersects Mythology with History, with the older events being essentially legendary, while the newest ones are historical – this mythical/historical chronology seems to split around 683 BC, if anyone is curious about it.

✓ *Passion of Saint Saturninus*

This small work preserves the story of how Saint Saturninus was martyred and, later on, his dead body was found out and taken to a place where it could be properly venerated.

✓ *Passion of the Holy Martyrs Perpetua and Felicitas*

One of the earliest Christian autobiographical texts, narrating the passion of Perpetua and supposedly written by her, with the final sequence and editing of the text having later been completed by other Christians.

✓ *Penguin Classics: A Complete Annotated Listing*

A book very similar to the one you're currently reading, presenting all the works from the "Penguin Classics" collection. Regrettably, it almost always tends to sum up most books in one or two phrases, which is clearly insufficient for readers to get any good grasp of their real content.

✓ *Philogelos*

A collection of ancient jokes probably compiled in the first centuries of our era. Some do require a knowledge of the culture of the time, but most are still funny even today.

✓ *Physiologus*

A bestiary which became particularly important in the Middle Ages. Its essential innovation, when compared to works such as those by Aelian or Pliny the Elder, comes from the fact that it assigns Christian moralizations to the actions of animals.

To provide just two examples, the fact the Phoenix is reborn after death is used by the anonymous author(s) as a certainty of Christ's own resurrection; the fact beavers supposedly gave away their own testicles to pursuers who wanted to get them – the animal hoping

to have his life spared by such procedure<sup>7</sup> – led writers to compare them with a faithful Christian, who would gladly give away his physical gifts for the future reward of an eternal life.

✓ *Picatrix* \*

A medieval arabic work on the subject of astrology and talismans. Although it is very detailed in its subject, unless you're planning on using its knowledge to truly build your own talismans – which would even require you to learn very advanced astrological concepts solely for that purpose – this work turns boring very quickly.

- *Piers Plowman* \*
- *Pig Stele of Edessa*
- *Platform Sutra*

---

7 If you're curious about it, beavers don't actually do this. I contacted *National Geographic* on the subject and I was informed that such misconception was common in the Antiquity and Middle Ages, where these animals were hunted for the alleged medicinal properties of their testicles, but they never display such behaviour in real life.

✓ *The Pilgrimage of Egeria* \*

Among the oldest accounts of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, likely from around the end of the IV century AD.

✓ *Poema Ultimum*

A poem which briefly criticizes some basic aspects of the pagan religions, before extolling readers to the Christian religion.

✓ *Poetic Edda*

One of the two most important sources on Nordic Mythology. Contains many poems and mythical tales related to their gods.

✓ *Popol Vuh*

A work detailing the mythology and history of a particular Mayan people. Its manuscript has a complex origin story, but some of the parallelisms with the myths of Greece can be established, particularly on points such as the creation of Man and the introduction of fire to mankind.

✓ *Portugal – Notes and Pictures*



Seemingly from the middle of the XX century, this book briefly presents Portugal and its culture to English-speaking foreigners. Perhaps that part is not that interesting, but the work also contains many black-and-white photos from back in the day, which is certainly noteworthy from a cultural standpoint.

✓ *Portugal Regenerado em 1820*

A report on the kind of problems that the country of Portugal faced around the year of 1820, along with some potential solutions. Curiously, some of them are still retained and affecting the country after even 200 years!

✓ *Portugaliae Monumenta Historica* \*

A collection of important texts from the early centuries of Portugal. They are written in Early Portuguese and Latin (but seemingly never both, despite the preface to the first volume being in both languages), and they go through many volumes, under four different categories – chronicles, laws, miscellaneous documents, and investigations. Overall, they can be interesting for those studying local history, but their legendary materials are few and far between.

✓ *Prayer of Manasseh*

A prayer which Manasseh is supposed to have uttered while in captivity, following an event from the Old Testament.

✓ *Prayer of the Apostle Paul*

From the *Nag Hammadi Scriptures*, this is essentially a short prayer which, based solely on its name (now only present at the very end of the extant text), is associated with Paul of Tarsus.

✓ *Precatio Terrae*

A short prayer (or perhaps two, depending on how you decide to divide it), in Latin, to the goddess Earth. It should be noted that it contains no significant mythological references, though.

✓ *Priapeia*

Compilation of poems dedicated to the god Priapus, some of which contain what can be seen as risky material.

✓ *Prophecia que se achou em Alanquer (...)*

A short manuscript prophecy from Portugal, likely from after the death of King Sebastian, in 1578. It mentions Cassandra of Troy, seemingly to make it seem like a very old prophecy, and its lines refer to one mysterious final monarch of the empire of "Hispania" before the Apocalypse.

✓ *Proto-Gospel of James*

This apocryphal gospel contains the backstory of the Virgin Mary and her parents. It was widely popular across the centuries, and some of its events are still celebrated in the Catholic Church nowadays.

✓ *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*

This infamous document from the early XX century seemingly proves that there is a Jewish conspiracy to control the world. It has been widely distributed to foment antisemitism, but if you read it contextually you end up noticing that it is just a forgery, essentially created to support antisemitic ideas – and not even a very good one, since it copies complete ideas from unrelated fictional works, such as the *Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*.

✓ *Psalm 151*

Most editions of the Old Testament feature 150 psalms attributed to King David. However, some may contain this additional composition, which briefly alludes to the slaying of Goliath by David.

• *Querolus or Aulularia*✓ *Questions of John*

A medieval text related to Catharism, where the apostle John asks Jesus some questions. The answers directly preserve Cathar beliefs, the most shocking of which – for us – may be the idea that the world was not created by God, but by the Devil.

✓ *Questions of [King] Milinda*

In this work from the first centuries of our era King Milinda asks the buddhist sage Nagasena many questions, most of them regarding Buddhist doctrines. However, what makes this book specially worth mentioning is the fact this “Milinda” is also the western king Menander I Soter, and so its content may preserve one of the earliest mentions to Buddhism, and its ideas, in sources related to western culture.

✓ *Questions of Saint Bartholomew*

A seemingly early text in which Bartholomew asks a resurrected Jesus some very daring questions, such as where was he during the three days, how was he conceived, or what are the most significant sins.

✓ *Rawlinson Excidium Troie*

There could be many ways to describe this obscure work, but, paraphrasing its modern editor, I also feel it could be defined as somewhat of a school manual, based on the fact it contains several questions designed to test the reader's knowledge.

Overall, it can be split into three sequences – a partial report of the Trojan War, some information almost directly quoted from the *Aeneid*, and an extremely succinct historical sequence – but, from a mythological standpoint, it appears to be the oldest work which preserves two important pieces of information regarding Greek and Latin Mythology: the reason why Paris was selected to judge the three goddesses, and the fact the arrow which killed Achilles was poisoned.

✓ *O Reino da Estupidez*

A small epic poem from XVIII century Portugal, in which Stupidity, a (supposed) Roman goddess, decides to look for a new realm for herself, eventually settling in the University of Coimbra, in Portugal. Depending on the edition the poem may have more or less verses; overall, it is not a very fun read, despite the unusual idea behind it.

- ✓ *Relaçam do monstruoso peixe que nas prayas do Tejo appareceo em 16 de Mayo deste presente anno de 1748*

A short document, evidently from the middle of the XVIII century, which briefly describes the appearance of a monstrous fish near Lisbon, Portugal. The description in itself, then complemented with two engravings (only one of the aforementioned fish), is fairly short, but preceded by a dissertation on the whole subject.

- ✓ *Relação, e copia extravagante de huma carta que Neptuno mandou a Jupiter Cretense (...)*

From mid XVIII century, this Portuguese text is an epistle where Neptune, god of the Romans, invites Jupiter to attend some local events. Although it

mentions some myths and stories from the Antiquity, this is far from interesting.

✓ *Report of Pontius Pilate*

A fictional report, written from Pilate's point of view, regarding the trial, conviction and post-resurrection miracles of Jesus.

✓ *The Return [of Dumuzid?]*

Apparently continuing from *Dumuzid's Dream*, Inana and Dumuzid's family lament the latter's death, until a fly reveals the hero's current location. A pact is soon made for Dumuzid to spend half the year with his sister and the other half in the Underworld.

✓ *Revised and Amended Prescript of the Order of the KKK*

From the first half of the XIX century, this document preserves some of the basic rules of the initial form of the KKK, but also says little about its origins and any of the major rules behind it, save for some of the more evident ones.

✓ *Robin Good-Fellow: His Mad Pranks, and Merry*

### *Jests*

This small book from the XVI century tells the backstory of Robin Good-Fellow, perhaps best known among us today simply as Puck. Since the plot essentially ends with him joining Oberon and the other fairies in the forest, perhaps this can even be seen as sort of a prequel to the story of Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

### ✓ *Romance of Abenámar*

A short poem, with 46 verses, about the beauty of medieval Granada and the attempt from the Christians to conquer it. It is a short dialogue between a Spanish king and a Muslim, seemingly an old inhabitant of the city.

### ✓ *Roteiro da Cidade de Évora, e Breve Notícia Dos Seus Principaes Monumentos*

Published in 1881, this briefly report's on Évora's old monuments. That's a city from Portugal, if you are wondering about it.

### ✓ *Roteiro da Viagem de Dom Vasco da Gama à Índia*



This document reports the step-by-step travel of Vasco da Gama to India. It contains, here and there, some curiosities about the journey and the events which took place in his ending point.

✓ *Rules of a Godly Life*

Seemingly related to the Amish, this little book preserves some maxims that people should follow in order to have a good life. Overall, they're all very simple, but still though-provoking nonetheless.

✓ *The Beale Papers*

A brief work from the XIX century on a supposed hidden treasure in the US. The work, in itself, preserves not only the story of the whole thing, but also three cyphers, only one of which was solve as the present date. The whole thing may be fictional.

✓ *The Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok*

Seemingly a sequel to *The Saga of the Volsungs*, the story continues here with Ragnar Lothbrok and his descendants, up to the time they're all dead. I found this to be a bit less interesting than its predecessor. It also ends in the middle of the action, but I could not

locate a sequel, if there is indeed one.

✓      *The Saga of the Volsungs*

The legendary story of the nordic Volsung clan, from its beginning up to some of the events which follow Sigurd's death. Essentially, it seems like a mix of mythology and some history, where it is not always evident where one starts and the other ends. It seems to end in the middle of the action, but it continues the plot with *The Saga of Ragnar Lothbrok*.

✓      *Saint Eustace*

The medieval story of a man who, after converting to Christianity, was asked if he preferred to have his temptations in his young age or old one. He picked the former, and the story proceeds from there. It is a story very similar to *Sir Isumbras'*.

✓      *The Secret Book of James*

According to this gnostic book (part of the Nag Hammadi Library), Jesus revealed some secret teachings to his apostle James. They are supposedly preserved here, but they are not exactly easy to understand.

✓ *The Secret History of the Mongols*

From XIII century Mongolia, and that country's oldest surviving work, it is essentially the main primary source for the life and deeds of Genghis Khan. It is a simple work, although a bit unusual in its stylistic senses, e.g. it is always written in the first-person.

✓ *Secreta Monita*

A secret book which supposedly contained the "tricks" the Jesuits used in their institution. It makes them look really bad, and one definitely has to wonder how true it really is. Of course it is, today, considered as just a false document, but some of the content does really beg the question.

✓ *Sefer Yetzirah*

Of disputed authorship, an explanation of the very basic elements required to eventually be able to understand the whole concept of the Kabbalah.

✓ *Segunda Parte de Lazarillo de Tormes*

A sequel to the *Lazarillo de Tormes*, where the hero falls into the sea and turns into a tuna fish, in which

form he goes through multiple underwater adventures, even learning the language of tunas. The whole idea is certainly unique and innovative, but the way it is presented by the anonymous author makes it quite different from the original novel and a lot less interesting than its predecessor ever was.

✓ *Setne Khamwas and Naneferkaptah*

This story from Ancient Egypt is not exactly easy to sum up, but essentially it deals with a man who seeks to obtain the magical Book of Thoth, and all the horrible consequences that are derived from such an attempt to possess the kind of knowledge that should be reserved only to the gods.

✓ *Shi'ur Qomah* \*

Of unknown authorship date, this Jewish work measures God's body through a mystical revelation of the angel Metatron.

✓ *Sibylline Oracles*

Not to be confused with the (more famous but now lost) *Sibylline Books*, this work seems to be a Christian forgery which attributes a ton of Christian-related

predictions to the ancient sibyls. Perhaps they are worth reading because they allude to many historical events in an obscure way, but their mythological content is very brief, with just a few allusions to some gods here and there.

✓      *Sir Cleges*

The story of a medieval knight from Uther Pendragon's time, who fell into disgrace and eventually recovered his former glory.

✓      *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

A noteworthy fictional work from the Middle Ages, where Gawain has to fight a rather unusual opponent, who seems to have in him way more than meets the eye. Reading it definitely raises many questions, and the complete plot does not answer all of them.

✓      *Sir Isumbras*

The medieval story of a knight who was asked if he preferred to have his sorrows in his young age or old one. He picked the former, and the story proceeds from there.

✓ *Sir Orfeo*

A medieval retelling of Orpheus' myth, turning the main character into a knight. It is specially interesting for the task of judging the ways in which the original elements of the story were adapted to an entirely new cultural context.

✓ *Sítios e Pousadas*

I could not find who authored this book seemingly published after 1974, and I was only able to obtain its first volume, but it is beautifully adorned with lots of photographs, describes what is worth seeing in some areas of Portugal, and even presents some of its local housings (many of which are already closed today). It is a trilingual document – Portuguese, French and English – but it is not very well structured.

✓ *Song of Roland*

This medieval *chanson de geste* had a significant impact in western literature. Essentially, it presents a fictionalized version of the medieval Battle of Roncevaux Pass; however, I always felt the passage about Turpin's and Roland's death, in itself, deserves to be specially praised for its unexpected beauty.

✓ *The Song of the Nibelungs*

This German epic from the XIII century tells the final parts of the legend of Siegfried, but it focuses mostly on his wife, Kriemhild, going through the episodes that unites them, followed by the hero's death, all the way through her own death. It has some interesting moments, in the first part, but once the famous hero dies, the rest of the work seemed a lot less pleasing and interesting to me.

✓ *The Story of Grandmother*

A supposedly oral story which was seemingly used as a source for Charles Perrault's *Little Red Riding Hood*. Among its most unusual plot elements are the fact that the girl does a short striptease for the wolf, then pretends to have to go pee outside, and uses this as a trick to run away from the animal eagerly awaiting to eat her.

✓ *The Story of How the Monk Tripitaka of the Great Country of Tang Brought Back the Sutras*

A short work, supposedly from XIII century China, which is essentially a predecessor to the famous

*Journey to the West*. The main essence of their plot is the same, but this work is much simpler and contains a lot less fantasy. Regrettably some chapters are lost, and so it is impossible compare how the famous “Monkey” originated in this version.

✓ *Story of Sinuhe*

A small tale from Ancient Egypt, about a man who has to run away from his land and serve a different monarch. He is eager to return to his homeland, and eventually does so, to his great happiness.

✓ *The Story of the Jerusalemite*

The purpose of the medieval hebrew text is evident from its final lines – it is a moral tale showing that children should obey the commands of their parents and never break oaths. What is particularly fascinating about this wonderful tale is that it goes way above and beyond a regular parable, even becoming very similar a complete romance, exclusively to give that one small lesson to the reader, with the hero repeatedly facing new problems, and even breaking oaths multiple times, before the tale ultimately comes to an end.



✓      *The Suda*

This can essentially be defined as a large Byzantine encyclopedia (or lexicon), particularly relevant due to the fact it preserves a lot of information on authors and their (often, now lost) works. If you're interested in checking it, there's now an online edition complete with a full English translation, but any potential readers should be warned that the information preserved here is not always completely accurate, as the sole entry on "Atalanta" easily proves.

✓      *The Suffering of the Martyr Saint Julian*

This anonymous short work, which should not be confused with Gregory of Tours', describes how Saint Julian was martyred, and then retells one miracle which took place at the saint's tomb.

✓      *Superstições Descubertas, Verdades Declaradas e Desenganos a Toda a Gente*

Written at the beginning of the XIX century, this work references many of the superstitions and beliefs people held in Portugal at the time. Strangely, it does not directly disprove them, instead just generally stating they are wrong and incorrect.

✓ *Suplício do Bacalhau e Degredo de Judas em Sábado de Aleluia*

A short play where a codfish is presented to a judge before Lent, a bit funny if you are familiar with local culture. The edition I read was printed in 1874, but this may represent an example of an old Portuguese tradition, which is now almost lost, where a codfish (and/or Judas Iscariot, depending on the region) were tried at the end of the local "Carnaval" holiday.

✓ *The Ruin*

From the VIII-X centuries of our era, this short poem contrasts the past beauty of a city and its buildings with its current state.

✓ *Tabula Capuana*

The second longest extant text in Etruscan, it seems to be a calendar of some religious rituals to be performed around the year.

✓ *Tale of Bygone Years*

Also known as the *Russian Primary Chronicle*, this is a history of the Eastern Slaves from the virtual

beginning of the world up to the first years of the XII century. Although it is mostly an historical work, it very occasionally mentions legends from the time, although they are admittedly rare and far between.

✓ *Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor*

A small story from Ancient Egypt about a man who goes to a strange island and finds a giant snake in it. The story itself is way, way less interesting than it could sound here, and features barely any real action or more noteworthy plot.

✓ *The Tale of Eirek the Traveller*

A Nordic tale, in which Eirek looks for a land quite similar to the Christian Paradise. This tale is particularly interesting for the way in which it connects Pagan and Christian views of the world, and may even represent an older story that was later changed to include newer beliefs.

✓ *Tales from Ariosto: Retold for Children by a Lady*

I could not find who wrote this late XIX century work, but it essentially presents the reader with very simplified versions of the stories from Ariosto's *Orlando*

*Furioso*. Naturally, and as the “for children” subtitle best indicates, they are very simplified and avoid the interlacing complexity of the original.

- ✓ *Thai Ramayana, As Written by King Rama I With Illustrations From the mural Paintings in the Temple of the Emerald Buddha*

Essentially a summary of *Ramakien*'s plot, in which the author even uses some of the names of the original characters from India. Perhaps it is specially useful to gain a brief overview of the entire work.

- ✓ *The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles*

Apparently from the first century of our era and traditionally attributed to the apostles of Christ, it may be considered one of the first catechisms, with some basic instructions on the beliefs and actions Christians were supposed to follow.

- ✓ *Tenchi Hajimari no Koto*

Written by the Japanese *kakure kirishitan*, this is essentially a recreation of the Bible, as if you had only heard its plot a few times and were trying to reconstruct it based on what you could still remember

of its original plot. It contains many interesting innovations to the story, such as when Jesus is killed by a blind man, who is given vision miraculously but later loses it once he accepts money for his deadly action. Overall, if you are familiar with the original events of the story, this version is specially intriguing in the way it attempts to recreate those.

✓ *Testament of Job*

A recap of the biblical Job's life made by himself, and with some significant changes made over the original Old Testament version.

✓ *Testament of Solomon*

According to this work, King Solomon built the famous temple in Jerusalem with the help of demons, which he gained access to through a magical ring. This association of Solomon with magic, popularized here, would prove of some importance across the centuries.

✓ *Testamentum Porcelli*

A satirical testament in Latin, supposedly dictated by a pig just before a cook killed and cooked him.

✓ *Theogony of Dunnu*

This Akkadian theogony, although very short and fragmentary, preserves us an amusingly metaphorical creation of the world, with the initial deities being Plough and Earth.

✓ *Thunder, Perfect Mind*

A really intriguing gnostic poem, originating from the Nag Hammadi Library. One certainly has to wonder who the poetic subject was supposed to be (Eve? A female goddess?), and how their message originally intersected with any particular sect associated to Gnosticism and/or Christianity.

✓ *Tirant lo Blanch*

A medieval chivalric romance, particularly famous due to the high praise attached to it in Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. It is clearly low on historicity, since some of the events depicted in the work are clearly known to have gone very differently in real life, such as the sequences of battles among the Byzantine Empire and the Turks. Despite that "flaw", it is an enjoyable work.

✓ *Toledoth Yeshu*

In the Middle Ages there appear to be many different versions of a work given this particular name, but they all seem to have something in common – they depict Jesus as someone clearly not divine, who perverted the Jewish faith and did plenty of misdeeds. It is undoubtedly a work offensive to most Christians, but equally interesting in the way it deliberately perverts the accounts from the four gospels.

✓ *Tombo das Armas dos Reys e Titulares e de todas as Familias Nobres do Reyno de Portugal intitulado com o Nome de Thesouro de Nobreza*

A quite unique book, since it presents the – supposedly historical – coats of arms of many Portuguese families, cities and kings, among others. It barely features any text, besides what is required to identify each of the individual arms.

✓ *Tractatus Coislinianus*

A work outlining a theory of Comedy, potentially derived from Aristotle's (lost) second book of *Poetics*. It is a very short one, and likely won't interest most readers, unless they're specifically studying the ancient

theory of Comedy.

✓ *Tractatus de mulieribus [claris in bello]*

Certainly an incomplete remnant of a much larger work, in its current form this anonymous text briefly presents readers very short biographies of 14 women famous in the Antiquity, including a short story of Dido in which Aeneas is completely absent.

✓ *Trovas da Menina Formosa*

A song from XVIII century Portugal, about a young woman and a man who loves her, but it seems that such love is unrequited.

✓ *Uma História: 50 Anos Estoril Sol*

This massive book – it almost takes an entire two-people table – presents a brief history of “Estoril Sol”, and a significant number of beautiful photographs connected to its history across the years.

✓ *Vatican Mythographer (First, Second, Third) \**

The three Vatican Mythographers preserve an intermediary stage of the development of mythical



tradition, already a bit far away from the original Greek and Latin texts, but also still apart from the way they're usually viewed in the Middle Ages. The three works appear to have different authors, treat their subjects in different ways, and should be considered independently by all readers.

✓ *The Vengeance of the Saviour*

This is similar to a fictional novel, in which the reader is told some of the events which occurred after Jesus Christ was killed. Strangely, sometimes the supposedly "good" guys act almost as if they were bad ones – for example, Veronica is tortured by the Romans when they seek to obtain her veil.

✓ *O Verdadeiro Livro de S. Cypriano*

A very short edition of the Book of Saint Cyprian, published in Portuguese in 1930. Its most notable element is certainly an explanation of what ghosts are, further complemented with a prayer on how to get rid of them.

✓ *Versos do Pretinho do Japão*

Likely forged in the XIX century, these verses

attributed to a slave in Portugal were seemingly important for the Portuguese myth of “Sebastianismo”. They’re very poor, poetically, but appeared to predict a future coming of the king, along other events of the history of the country.

✓ *Vida da Bem-Aventurada Virgem Senhorinha*

A life of the aforementioned saint, from medieval Portugal. When it comes to miracles, it is fairly realistic.

✓ *Vida de D. Tello e Notícia da Fundação do Mosteiro de S. Cruz de Coimbra*

Succinctly reporting on the life and deeds of the man who created the once-famous monastery in Coimbra, Portugal.

✓ *Vida de Santa Senhorinha dos Acta Sanctorum*

Another life of the saint already mentioned slightly above, from medieval Portugal. It seems like a simplified version of the other text.

✓ *Vida e Milagres de S. Rosendo* \*

These medieval documents from Portugal contain the

life and miracles of the aforementioned saint. However, what also makes them specially noteworthy is the fact that the miracles attributed to the saint, present in the second part of the work, were – according to the author – attested by the exact same people who went through them.

✓ *Visio Tnugdali*

The story of a very bad knight who dies temporarily and is shown the terrors of Hell, along with some of the many glories reserved for those who were good during their lives. I saw it repeatedly defined as one of the most influential visions of Hell before Dante's famous *Commedia*, and although I noticed some resemblance between these two literary productions, one definitely has to wonder where the *Visio Tnugdali's* past influence ends and Dante's own personal genius begins.

✓ *The Voyage of Saint Brendan the Abbot*

Seemingly from the beginning of the X century, this narrates the travels of Saint Brendan to an undisclosed west, where he expected to reach the land promised to the saints. In his journey he goes through many

fantastic islands and incredible events, such as landing on a fish-island and meeting Judas Iscariot.

✓ *Westcar Papyrus*

A collection of five short stories coming from Ancient Egypt, their common element being the presence of miraculous events.

✓ *What's the Point of Math*

This fairly recent book does not have the author stated in the cover. It was written for a younger audience, with plenty of drawings all over, but it deserves to be noted here for telling a brief story of Maths, each new sequence illustrated with at least one significant story – whether real or false I know not – relevant to the problem at hand.

✓ *Wisdom of Solomon*

An Old Testament apocryphal work, naturally attributed to King Solomon, which is part philosophical work, part historical one. It contains some notable allusions to other Old Testament episodes.

✓ *The Wonder Book of Freaks and Animals in the*

*Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth*

Published in 1898, this work is a small catalogue from an exhibition. What makes it noteworthy here is that it briefly recaps the sometimes real, sometimes fictional, stories behind some of its human exhibitions, allowing us to know more about them even after they are all long gone.

✓ *Writings of Ptahotep*

A list of advices that one Ptahotep, who lived in the XXIV century BC, found important to leave to his descendants.

✓ *Xiaojing*

Likely to be translated as *Classic of Family Reverence*, this is a work attributed by some to Confucius, which explains how, in Chinese classical culture, family members should behave among themselves and towards a ruler. I felt it is not a very interesting work for western readers.



## 2- Section A

For the next alphabetical sections, entries are typically ordered in one of two different ways. For classical sources, the entry will be under the author's most famous name [i.e. "Virgil" instead of "(Publius Vergilius) Maro"]; while for more recent ones, such as medieval or modern ones, they'll be placed under either the author's surname or extremely famous name [i.e. "(José) Saramago" instead of "José Saramago", "Dante" instead of "(Dante) Alighieri"].

✓ (Peter) Abelard, *Historia Calamitatum*

In this work Abelard, the famous lover of Heloise which was already previously mentioned above, provides us with his own autobiography. Along with the aforementioned letters, this work was very popular in the Middle Ages.

✓ Abraham of Worms, *Book of Abramelin* \*

It seems there are multiple different versions of this work, but the one I read was composed of four books. Essentially, it is a work of magic with a seemingly

Jewish background, and allegedly written in the XV century. It has a sequence about how the author came across this knowledge, another on how to prepare to cast spells, a third on their actual performance, and finally one on magical squares. What is curious on all of this is that the work itself claims other magic books are fake, and even tries to dispel some of their content, e.g. according to this source few spells ever need to be performed in a specific day of the week. Overall, it is an interesting work on the subject, even if it doesn't follow the basic elements of other ones of this genre.

- ✓ (G. de Vasconcellos) Abreu, *Fragmentos d'uma Tentativa de Estudo Scolastico da Epopeia Portuguesa*

I expected this to be, as its name indicates, an attempt at a study of Camões' *Lusiads*, but instead it quotes from and references that work and retells some legends from Asia which appear to be very vaguely connected to it. Extremely disappointing.

- ✓ Accius, Fragments

Over 700 fragments from the plays of Accius have



reached us, and most of them relate to mythological subjects. However, since they're typically very short – maybe one phrase or two – their importance is also significantly limited, perhaps allowing us to see the topics the author wrote about, more than any kind of events which took place in the actual tragedies.

✓ Acharya S, *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold*

Although the author makes many assertions regarding Jesus Christ as a mythic figure, some of them completely astonishing to an informed reader, they are essentially unsupported, and time and again I found myself wondering where she was even getting her information. What can one say about an author who quotes Blavatsky and Pagels almost side by side, giving them both equal weight? Although this is definitely an intriguing read, almost every piece of information you find here should be taken with an extremely significant grain of salt.

✓ Achilles Tatius, *The Adventures of Leucippe and Clitophon*

An Ancient Greek novel.

✓ Acusilaus of Argos, *Genealogies* (f)

Although this work is very fragmentary, the extant information from it preserves some intriguing elements related to lesser known versions of greek myths.

✓ Adamnan, *Arculf's Narrative about the Holy Places*

This book's title deserves some explanation. It seems that Arculf visited the Holy Land near the end of the VII century AD, and then Adamnan wrote this report based on the information that was directly provided to him by the original visitor. So, essentially, this is a second-hand report of the Holy Land, with references to what Arculf saw there a few centuries after Egeria's more famous visit.

✓ Adamnan, *Life of Columba* \*

Despite its name, perhaps it would be best to call this a report on Saint Columba's (many) miracles, which appear to be the main kernel of the whole book. It is a work almost certainly low on historicity, despite the fact the author insists that what he is reporting actually happened.

- ✓ (C. L.) Adams, *Castles of Ireland: Some Fortress Histories and Legends* \*

This work extensively describes some castles from Ireland, and also reports some stories associated with them. Each chapter ends with a small note on the author's references for the information he provides, which in some cases makes it sound like he didn't really visit the castles by himself.

- ✓ (Francisco Marianno do) Advento, *Aviso a Pastranos e Pastranas, a Caloiros e Caloiras, pela História da Serração da Velha (...)*

In two short parts, these documents appear to preserve an example of the Portuguese celebration of the "Serração da Velha". Since the actual now appears to be long forgotten, this allows readers to at least theorize about some significant elements of the whole thing.

- ✓ Aelian, *De Natura Animalium*

Among the most famous works on animals produced in the first centuries of our era, alongside with Pliny the Elder's. The author talks about many different animals,

their individual characteristics and unique features, almost always in a simple way – I genuinely enjoyed reading its many books from beginning to end!

✓      Aelian, *Varia Historia*

Strictly speaking, this can be defined as a book of curiosities on many different areas. It is amusing and features lots of uncommon pieces of information.

✓      Aelius Aristides, *Sacred Tales*

A work which mixes medical practises with religious beliefs. As we know, in the Antiquity doctors and patients often went to temples in the hope that the gods revealed them cures for their diseases; this is a book which preserves those visions in a very unique first-person perspective.

✓      Aeneas Tacticus, *How to Survive under Siege* \*

Essentially a booklet with strategies to follow when you're attempting to defend a city which is under siege.

✓      Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

Aeschylus' "Oresteia" is the only complete trilogy

which reached us from the Antiquity. In this first play, the titular character comes back home from the Trojan War, only to be killed by his own wife and her new lover.

✓      Aeschylus, *Eumenides*

"Oresteia"'s third and final play, where Orestes seeks atonement for having killed his own mother. From a cultural standpoint, it is particularly interesting to notice that the Furies chase him for such crime, and yet previously ignored the fact that the hero's mother, Clytemnestra, also killed her own husband.

✓      Aeschylus, *Libation Bearers*

"Oresteia"'s second play, in which Orestes avenges the death of his father by eventually killing his own mother and her lover.

•      Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound*

✓      Aeschylus, *The Persians*

A play best known for the fact it has a historical, instead of a mythological, subject. In it, the ghost of Darius of Persia intervenes, particularly criticising the

actions of his own son and issuing some prophecies for the future.

- Aeschylus, *The Suppliants*

- ✓ Aeschylus, *Seven Against Thebes*

One of two plays which preserves for us the myth of the "Seven Against Thebes". It is particularly significant for the fact it retells, in a long sequence, which hero was assigned to each of the city's seven gates, and which enemy fought them at that time. But, strangely, this listing does not seem to be consistent with other sources for the same myth.

- ✓ Aesop, Fables \*

Aesop himself never seems to have written anything, but many compilations of stories featuring talking animals and objects reached us under his name. However, it is terribly difficult to find out which ones were originally "Aesop's", and which were composed by late writers under his name.

- ✓ (Hugo) Africa, *The Man Who Forgave God*

A book about so-called "419 scams", where the author

sums up not only the most famous from Nigeria, but also adapts the concept to other areas, such as religion. Although it is clearly not a very interesting book, it should be noted that the author talks about many first-hand accounts, often from a native standpoint, and that is definitely worth mentioning.

- ✓ (Anvita & Anika) Agarwal, *A Year with the Maha-Puranas* \*

Apparently written by two pre-teens from India, they read all the Maha-Puranas and succinctly reviewed them, apart from telling us their favourite stories. Although not a very deep book, for evident reasons, it may inspire other hindu readers to get their own kids to learn more about their famous scriptures.

- ✓ Agathemerus, *Sketch of Geography*

A brief geographical work from the first centuries of our era, with its most notable element being perhaps the first section of the work, in which the author briefly tells readers about the origin of some names. Other than that, the work features a lot of, to me quite uninteresting, measurements of distances.

✓ Agobard of Lyons, *On Hail and Thunder*

A medieval work in which it is briefly presented the myth of Magonia. The author presents it very briefly and then extensively opposes the whole idea by quotations from the Bible.

✓ Agostinho de Santa Maria, *Santuário Mariano* \*

Written in the beginning of the XVIII century, this work in ten volumes tries to explain the near-endless names and origins behind the sanctuaries of the Virgin Mary in Portugal and some of its colonies. Regrettably, the author also frequently includes many worshipping comments in his text, making it much harder to get to the kernel of the subject than a reader would like, but if you can live with that problematic flaw, this is frequently a very interesting work.

✓ (Matest M.) Agrest, *Des cosmonautes dans l'antiquité?*

Seemingly the founding text of the Ancient Aliens theory, this scientific article published in the decade of 1960 raises the possibility that extraterrestrials visited our planet in the distant past, and shows how to potentially test such hypothesis.



✓ Ajahn Jayasaro, *On Love*

A Buddhist short work on love, portraying it in quite an interesting way, and quite consistent with what I myself also believe in.

✓ (Venerable) Ajahn Sumedho, *As Quatro Nobres Verdades*

Originally read in a Portuguese edition, this is a treatise on the Buddhist "Four Noble Truths". I absolutely agree with the essential doctrinal ideas presented there, since reaching true happiness can only be attained by finding that suffering exists, and how to counter its influence in ourselves and our world. And how much better would everything be if everyone learned about this idea and could adapt it to their own lives!

✓ Ajahn Sumedho, *Mindfulness: The Path to the Deathless*

About Buddhist Meditation, and all the elements surrounding it, perhaps most indicated for beginners, since it takes the reader from the essentials to more advanced questions and elements.

✓ (Ueda) Akinari, *Ugetsu Monogatari*

A collection of stories with fantastic elements from XVIII century Japan. They do contain ingredients from earlier sources, but I couldn't be sure if the stories themselves were fully Akinari's, or instead based in other sources.

✓ Al-Ghazali, *Incoherence of the Philosophers* \*

Written in the XI century, this work shows how the teachings of Ancient Philosophers, notably Aristotle, contrasted with those of the Koran, to show that their religion and Philosophy were not compatible.

✓ Al-Nadim, *Al-Fihrist* \*

Written in the X century, it is essentially an encyclopedia of authors and books available among the Arabs of the time. Often, it just presents some basic biographical information on each author and the names of the works they wrote, but what makes this book particularly interesting is the fact it also occasionally quotes from lost works, reports some of the ideas of its many authors, and even alludes to some myths and legends back from the Antiquity

(although not always as reliably as one would expect).

- ✓ (Manuel de Brito) Alão, *Antiguidade da Sagrada Imagem de Nossa S. de Nazareth* \*

Published in the first half of the XVII century, this work seems to briefly recap the Portuguese legend of Our Lady of Nazaré, but then adds a lot more information about events related to it, such as (many) miracles. Oddly enough, the second volume slightly changes the whole scheme of the work, but adds even more stories related to the same main topic. Oddly, the whole work does not devote an entire chapter to the veal's identity – was it a normal animal, or a transformation of the Devil? – as one would expect.

- ✓ (Jorge) Alarcão, *A religião de Lusitanos e Calaicos*

Another text read in Portuguese, which presents some of Lusitania's old religions. I don't think it exists in any translations.

- ✓ Alberto da Silva, *Luiz de Camões: Esboço Biographico*

A short biography of the poet Camões, from Portugal,

which appears to contain a mixture of fact and fiction. It ends with a beautiful poem, supposedly about the poet's final days, but which is reality doesn't seem to be by him.

✓      Albinus, *Introduction to the Dialogues of Plato*  
Essentially, this short text explains what a dialogue is, in terms of literary genres, and succinctly refers to several opinions regarding the order in which the extant dialogues of Plato should be read.

✓      Alciphron, *Letters*  
A collection of short fictional letters. Although it is not a very interesting compilation, some quaint pieces of information can be found here and there.

- Alcman, *Fragments*

✓      (Francisco) Alcoforado, *An historical account of the discovery of the island of Madeira*

Supposedly written by a sailor who was in the initial discovery of the island of Madeira, this work is notable for the fact it seems to be the source for the famous Portuguese legend of Machim, but it also briefly

explains the origins of some place names from the same island.

- ✓ Alcuin of York, *Dialogue of Pepin, the Most Noble and Royal Youth, with the Teacher Albinus*

Inspired by older works, and even somewhat based on them, this work presents very simple and short question-and-answer examples. It was written in the Middle Ages, yes, and the almost-irrelevant main characters are from that time too, but the philosophical questions and answers themselves – about topics such as “What is a letter?”, “What are feet?” and “What is a year?” – are far from interesting for a casual reader.

- ✓ (Miranda) Aldhouse-Green, *Rethinking the Ancient Druids: An Archaeological Perspective* \*

A simple book, in which the author goes through the literary evidence for the Druids and later compares it with potential archaeological evidence. It has occasional pictures and photos here and there, but some of them seem a bit out of context or included for their own sake.

- ✓ (Ulisse) Aldrovandi, *Monstrorum Historia* \*

From the mid XVII century, this work is most noteworthy for its engraving of “monsters”, in the sense of beings and plants which are not usually found in our world.

- ✓ Aleixo de Santo António, *Philosophia moral tirada de alguns proverbios ou adagios* \*

From the middle of the XVII century, this work presents some old proverbs from Portugal and disserts on them through the usage of classical episodes, biblical sources and works of christian authors.

- ✓ (Skye) Alexander, *The Modern Witchcraft Guide to Fairies* \*

A book completely filled with false, fantasy and inaccurate information. What can I say about a book that calls the Japanese “Kappa” a fairy, and later uses the same designation for countless kinds of beings which, originally, were not related in any way? Unless you’re looking for a purely fantasy waste of time, you definitely should avoid this one.

- ✓ Alexander of Lycopolis, *De Placitis Manicaeorum*

A somewhat brief work, presenting and refuting some of the essential elements of Manicheism. Based on other sources, I felt the author did a good job in some sections, but also somewhat misrepresented the original positions in other areas.

✓ Alexandrina of Balazar, *Autobiography*

From the early XX century, an autobiography of a portuguese "blessed" christian figure. What is particularly noteworthy about it is the fact that it reports her famous accident on her own words; I heard reports that some people were trying to rape her and so she jumped off a window, but this version seems to provide a very different account, where such horrible goal by the invaders is not really present.

✓ (Diogenes) Allen, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*

A modern book which presents the influence of Philosophy in Christian Theology. It is specially relevant due to its sequences in Plato and Aristotle, which had a major influence in the first few centuries of the Church.

- ✓ (Woody) Allen, *The Insanity Defense: The Complete Prose* \*

A compilation of short texts by this author, worthy of being mentioned here because some of them joke about the Antiquity, myths and legends, from the death of Socrates up to that one day in which Dracula got out during an eclipse.

- ✓ (Anne) Allison, *Millenial Monsters: Japanese Toys and the Global Imagination* \*

Supposedly, this book would present the context in which a few famous tv shows from Japan first appeared, and then developed before being presented to western audiences. However, it is written in a way which makes it very boring, focusing more in the contexts than it ever does in the shows themselves.

- ✓ (Teodoro de) Almeida, *Lisboa Destruída*

A poem on six cantos about the Lisbon earthquake of 1755, with minimal plot but a description of the many events which took place at the time. What makes this work specially interesting is the fact that, here and there, it is testified to whom particular events occurred. For this reason, it seems likely that the



author was really in the city at the time of the actual earthquake.

- ✓ (Virgínia de Castro e) Almeida, *A Fada Tentadora*

A fictional tale from the beginning of the XX century, it deserves to be noted for its very strange plot, in which a young lady interacts with a temptress fairy in order to get a lot of money and physical possessions. Even considering this is all a story written specially for children, I found it to be quite dull and with very little interest for today's readers.

- ✓ (Virgínia de Castro e) Almeida, *Colecção Pátria*  
This collection, written in Portuguese and published in the middle of the XX century, covers the history of Portugal from the first king's grandfather up to much more recent ages. Each volume essentially focuses on a single historical subject or period, and occasionally alludes to some legends related to it, but it was clearly written for children, and still in a bit of a boring style.

- ✓ (Virgínia de Castro e) Almeida, *Itinéraire Historique du Portugal* \*

Essentially, this work succinctly retells the history of Portugal, together with some images of significant places, and a brief reference to all the most famous monuments. It can be interesting as a cultural introduction to the country.

- ✓ Almeida Garrett, *Adozinda*

A somewhat brief poem reporting on a traditional legend from Portugal, about a knight who falls in love with his own daughter. Curiously, although the author creates a sort of romance with the whole plot, in the final sequence of the edition I read he also provides readers with the traditional song, even if a bit incomplete, about pretty much this same legend.

- ✓ Almeida Garrett, *D. Branca, ou A Conquista do Algarve*

When I heard this specific work could only be published after the author's death, the idea intrigued me, given the possibility it contained something shocking or specially problematic. Instead, it is simply a fantasy poem about the Portuguese legend of "Dona

Branca". Strangely, the author mentions he wanted to use local mythology instead of Classical one in this work, which he occasionally does, but still uses, here and there, some references from the Antiquity. In spite of all this, I felt the work was boring, too slow, and featuring too few significant references to local myths, legends and traditions.

✓ Almeida Garrett, *Viagens na Minha Terra*

This work can be split into two sections. The first one, apparently based on fact, narrates a travel of the author from Lisboa to Santarém, in Portugal, where he also visits the latter. The second part, interwoven with the first, retells an apparently fictional love story. They both come together at the end, but I felt the real parts of the story were more interesting than the fiction ones, since they portray a Portugal which, in some aspects, no longer exists.

✓ (Philip C.) Almond, *England's First Demonologist: Reginald Scot & The Discovery of Witchcraft*

Seemingly a sum-up of the ideas presented by Reginald Scot in his *The Discovery of Witchcraft*, with

special emphasis on those related to Demonology. It seems to effectively sum-up the content of the original work.

- ✓ (Maria Santos) Alpalhão, *A criação do cavaleiro nos livros de cavalarias*

A book chapter, on the specifics of how main heroes were born and raised in some Iberian chivalry romances. It presents some fascinating parallelisms, allowing you to realize how repetitive some of those books were.

- ✓ (Matt) Alt, *Japandemonium Illustrated: The Yokai Encyclopedias of Toriyama Sekien*

A translation of the four books of Toriyama Sekin on *yokai*, i.e. japanese mythological beings. Although all the pictures from the original are reproduced here, the authors also add some information of their own to the original work, essentially explaining some points that may not be familiar to western readers.

- ✓ (Matt) Alt, *Yokai Attack! The Japanese Monster Survival Guide* \*

This work contains succinct information and some

pictures on 45 different *yokai*. It can serve as a fair general introduction to the subject, even if the book is a bit strange in the fact that the author included information on how to defend yourself if you ever have to fight one of these creatures. It's obviously a joke on his side, but the rest of the text is usually credible.

- ✓ (Carlos) Alvar, *El rey Arturo y su mundo: Diccionario de mitología artúrica* \*

This is a dictionary presenting the characters and main topics of arthurian and medieval stories. It is certainly useful if you're looking to learn more about any specific character, or seeking more bibliography on any of them, as the author provides it at the end of each of his entries.

- ✓ (Manuel Inácio da Silva) Alvarenga, *O Desertor [das Letras]*

An epic poem written in Coimbra at the end of the XVIII century. There's not much more to say about it, it has some mythological references but it is far from amusing or interesting.

- ✓ (Antonio) Alvarez, *Relaçam em que se trata e*

*faz huma breve descrição dos arredores mais chegados à cidade de Lisboa & seus arredores*

A brief report on what existed in Lisbon around the year of 1626. It hardly ever describes any places, but it does mention their names and notable landmarks.

✓ (Adalberto) Alves, *O Árabe no Léxico Português*

A succinct research paper on the introduction and evolution of Arabic in the Portuguese language. Near the end, the author provides multiple examples of words which are still in use today.

✓ (Maria José) Alves, *Lendas e mitos do Brasil*

A short book depicting a few of the most famous legendary and mythical stories from Brazil. It is very simple, likely written and illustrated with children in mind. I could not find it in any English translations.

✓ (Beato) Amadeu da Silva, *Apocalypsis Nova* \*

A XV century mystical work, originally in Latin, with biblical revelations and some regarding the future. As such, it was prohibited by the Inquisition, but the work itself is somewhat boring to a casual reader, to say the least.

- ✓ (Rita) Amaral, *As falsas santidades e fingimentos de virtude na cidade de Lisboa entre 1640 e 1771*

An interesting Master thesis, about people from the city of Lisbon who were tried by the Inquisition for pretending to be saints. In one of the chapters, the author briefly recaps fifteen such cases – all the ones she could find regarding the subject at hand – and they are certainly worthy of note given the fact there isn't much first-hand literature about that subject.

- ✓ Amaru, *Amaru Shataka*

A book of erotic poetry from India, apparently written around the VIII century of our era. It should not be confused with sexual poetry, in the sense that these poems do allude to multiple erotic elements, but never clearly go into the topic of sexuality itself.

- ✓ Amerigo Vespucci, *Letter to Soderini*

In this letter – or letters? It is not clear if they were originally a single one – the author reports on four discovery travels he went through, one them seemingly to North America.

✓ Amerigo Vespucci, *Mundus Novus*

This letter, written to Lorenzo de Medici shortly after 1502, reports on the author's travel to Brazil under the Portuguese flag. It seems to report on the same third travel from above, but also adds a bit of additional information.

✓ (Lidia) Amor, *De l'Histoire d'Olivier de Castille et Artus d'Algarbe à La Historia de los Nobles Cavalleros Oliveros de Castilla y Artus d'Algarbe: les transferts culturels entre les récits chevaleresques français et castillan lors d'une traduction littéraire*

Despite its long title, this is a research article on the differences between two versions of a same knightly romance. The author provides some examples, but does not present all the differences.

✓ Ampelius, *Le Memorial*

Read in a French translation, this short textbook is a succinct compilation of historical and mythological information; the first ten chapters focus essentially on the cultural background, with the remaining ones



presenting an historical account all the way up to the Republic of the Romans.

- ✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *Contos, Fábulas, Facécias e Exemplos da Tradição Popular Portuguesa* \*

A compilation, in four volumes, of traditional stories from the beginning of the XX century in Portugal. Although the categories are not fully set in stone, each volume appears to have a different kind of stories.

- ✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *Histórias Maravilhosas da Tradição Popular Portuguesa* \*

Through its two volumes, this work seems to contain traditional stories from Portugal which invariably present magical and fantastic elements. Some of them are still famous nowadays, while others occasionally mention figures from old Portuguese Mythology, almost forgotten nowadays, such as the “Olharapo” and the “Trasgo”.

- ✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *O Livrinho Encantador*

A short-ish book, from the first half of the XX century, with some brief stories that children could use in school to learn how to read. Curiously, it has some

brief references to oral stories of the time.

✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *Os Nossos Amigos*

A book of readings for young children in school, with the underlying topic of animals and Nature. Here and there, it preserves some curious beliefs that used to be held in Portugal at the beginning of the XX century.

✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *Para as Crianças* \*

From the beginning of the XX century, this preserves a few children's stories from Portugal. The author does not tell us if she invented them or relied on oral sources, but at least one of the stories seems to belong to the secondary category, as it also appeared in similar versions across Europe.

✓ Ana de Castro Osório, *Últimas Histórias*

*Maravilhosas da Tradição Popular Portuguesa*

Part of a collection of traditional tales from Portugal, this work has some limited tales, notably one on the youth of the medieval hero Roland. They're certainly amusing, and seem to preserve fantastic elements common in many other traditional tales from this country.

- Anacreon, Fragments

- ✓ Anastasius Sinaita, *Questions and Answers* \*

Written around the VII century, this is a compilation of questions and answers regarding the beliefs of Christianity (103 main ones, in the edition I had access to). In their essence they're still very relevant to our own day and age, and are still able to clarify some specific areas of religious belief.

- ✓ (Ferdinand) Anders, *Libro de la Vida: texto explicativo del llamado Códice Magliabechiano*

A very complete work on the so-called *Codex Magliabechiano*, presenting it to the readers at multiple different levels and also containing an adaptation of the text to modern spanish.

- ✓ Andocides, *On the Mysteries* \*

The author's defence against an alleged crime of religious nature – apparently, someone had profaned the Eleusinian Mysteries and partially mutilated some statues of the god Hermes, and here Andocides defends himself from that accusation.

- ✓ (Joel Carlos de Souza) Andrade, *Em Demanda do Sebastianismo em Portugal e no Brasil: Um Estudo Comparativo (Séculos XIX / XX)*

This PhD thesis focuses on the evolution of the Portuguese legend of "Sebastianismo" during the XIX and XX centuries. Although the author does make significant references to earlier episodes, this is clearly not a full history of the idea, unlike I expected, in spite of the fact the author does indeed present, with some extension, the late evolutions of the whole concept.

- ✓ (Luís Oliveira) Andrade, *Feriados em Portugal: Tempos de Memória e de Sociabilidade* \*

I thought this book would tell me the history of specific holidays in Portugal, but instead it just presents the rise and evolution of the concept of holiday in the country. It includes how some were created, and others abolished, across time, but when I looked for some specific ones, the book had little to say about it.

- ✓ André de Resende, *Antiguidades da Lusitânia*

A modern Portuguese translation of the work *De Antiquitatibus Lusitaniae*, presenting lots of historical

and geographical information regarding the past of Lusitania, but it seems that the author died before being able to complete it in the way he originally planned to.

- André de Resende, *Fala que Mestre André de Resende fez a El-Rei D. Sebastião*
- André de Resende, *Fala que Mestre André de Resende fez à Princesa D. Joana*
- ✓ André de Resende, *História da Antiguidade da cidade de Évora* \*

Similar to the work above but focusing exclusively in the city of Évora, in Portugal, the author here presents the essentials elements of the history of the city up to around his day and age. He supports his text with quotes from some external historical documents and ones engraved in stone, especially from the time of Romans, which he also translates to Portuguese.

- ✓ (Carolina Limas Soares) André, *Pecados de Mulheres: A Cosmovisão Medieval: das Constituições Sinodais e Livros de Penitenciais ao Horto do Esposo e Contos Populares e*

*Lendas, Coligidos por José Leite de Vasconcellos*

A master thesis from Portugal, on how women and their sins were seen and portrayed in the local Middle Ages and its native language. The work itself has plenty of interesting information, but I also felt that, at times, it lacked a more connecting trail between the many references quoted by the author.

- (Fray) Andrés de Olmos, *Tratado de Hechicerias y Sortilegios*
- (Franco de) Angelis, *Euhemerus in Context*
- ✓ (Isabel de Moura) Anjinho, *Fortificação de Coimbra: das Origens à Modernidade* \*

This is a very extensive work, in three volumes, about the old fortifications, among other monuments (if they may be called so), from the city of Coimbra, in Portugal. The author goes very deeply into the subject, making this perhaps the most extensive work on that topic.

- ✓ (Luís dos) Anjos, *Flores de Portugal* \*

Written in the first quarter of the XVII century, this work preserves small biographies for almost two

hundred women noteworthy in the country. Some are saints, others are more earthly women, a few are even purely mythical figures, but they all seemed to have done something worth preserving to the author.

✓ Anna Komnene, *Alexiad* \*

Komnene's biographical epic of her own father, Alexios I Komnenos, features little mythological information, but it is certainly a noteworthy source for the life and events of XI and XII century Byzantium.

✓ Anonymous, *Guide to the Rabbit Hole: For those who just took the 'Red Pill'*

I came across this ebook by pure accident, even fully available for free. It briefly describes hundreds of conspiracy theories, mostly ones famous from the US, and provides at least one biased internet link to support their assertions. Overall, it is a pretty strange resource, with tons and tons of false and completely crazy information, but you may certainly enjoy it if you take it with significant grains of salt and in order to explore all the strange theories that exist out there. Oddly, the "flat earth" one appears to be a little bit mocked here, which I was unsure whether it is

intentional or not.

✓ Anonymous Vatican, *On Incredible Tales*  
Preserved in *the Codex Vaticanus Graecus 305* is a work of unknown authorship with this title. In a nutshell, it preserves 23 sequences related to classical culture and myths, providing basic interpretations of the latter. What makes it particularly different from Palaephatus' or Heraclitus the Paradoxographer's is the fact that it occasionally mentions its textual sources, even if we can no longer check them.

✓ Antiphon, *Prosecution of the Stepmother for Poisoning*

As the name itself best indicates, in this work the author attacks a stepmother (not his own) who has allegedly poisoned her husband for profit.

✓ Antisthenes, *Ajax*

A fragmentary text, in which the greek hero Ajax defends why he should be the one receiving the armour of Achilles after that hero's death.

✓ Antisthenes, *Odysseus*



Another fragmentary text, in this one Odysseus defends the opposing point, presenting the case of why he should be the one receiving the armour of Achilles after that hero's death. Contrast with the one above, for obvious reasons.

- ✓ António José da Silva, *Guerras do Alecrim e da Manjerona*

This XVIII play is famous in Portugal exclusively due to its quaint name. Few people seem to have actually read it, likely because there is nothing too noteworthy about it apart from the title itself.

- ✓ António Serrão de Crasto, *Os Ratos da Inquisição*

Written in the XIX century, I repeatedly heard this book defined as a first-person account of how the Portuguese Inquisition treated its prisoners. But, instead, it is a poem where the members of the Inquisition are repeatedly and metaphorically treated as mice. The work is a lot duller, and certainly much less interesting, than it is usually defined as.

- ✓ (Fernando) António, *As Aparições da Asseiceira*

Previously banned in Portugal, this small book simply compiles some of the news which, at the time, were published in multiple newspapers about an apparition of the Virgin Mary in the area of Asseiceira, Portugal. It reveals little about the whole occurrences, but at least preserves some of the early information about the whole case, until the third supposed apparition.

✓ Antoninus Liberalis, *Metamorphoses*

A prose summary of some classical myths in which some kind of transformation occurs.

✓ Antoninus of Piacenza (?), *Of the holy places visited*

Another record of a visit to the Holy Land, this one in the VI century AD.

✓ Apicius, *De Re Coquinaria*

This is Rome's most famous cookbook, and among the few which reached our own day and age (for another partial example, see Anthimus' *On the Observance of Foods*). The information it provides does allow the reader to cook their own dishes, but it is frequently difficult to find some of the ingredients they require.

✓ Apollodorus, *Chronicle* (f)

An historical chronicle in verse, of which only some fragments have reached us. They allows us to know a little of the original work, particularly that it may have covered a certain time frame, and how the verses were schemed.

✓ (Pseudo-)Apollodorus, *Library*

This *Library*, potentially attributed to one Apollodorus, is among the most important works for the study of Greek Myths. It presents a continuous account from the birth of all the gods up to the death of Odysseus back in Ithaca, but in the middle of the report on the deeds of Theseus the main text appears to have been lost, and it is now only available in the form of an epitome (which is obviously better than it having been fully lost).

Photius of Constantinople still seems to have read a much more complete form of this work, which also contained a short epigram describing its unusual purpose of preserving "all [myths?] the world contains". However, that same author also pays little attention to this work, only alluding to it at the end of

another entry of his own *Bibliotheca*; maybe he still had much better sources available to him, or just didn't care about mythical works, regardless of their quality?

✓ Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica*

The most famous account of the story of Jason and the Argonauts. Although it preserves the entire plot in a very extensive form, the author also frequently devotes too many verses to a needless display of geographical knowledge, which also makes his epic poem somewhat boring for most modern readers.

✓ Apollonius of Tyana, *Epistles*

These epistles are important solely based on the fact they may contain words directly attributed to Apollonius of Tyana, a pagan<sup>8</sup> figure once thought to be very similar to Jesus Christ. Whether Apollonius himself truly wrote them, or not, is a much more

---

8 Here and elsewhere "pagan" is used without any kind of pejorative meaning, instead referring to the many sets of religious beliefs which opposed Christianity in the first centuries of our era.

complex problem.

✓ Appian, *The Foreign Wars* \*

Written in the second century of our era, this work presents multiple wars involving the Romans. I found the book on the Hispanic Wars noteworthy for presenting an extended story, and slightly different from the usual one, of the adventures of Viriathus.

✓ Apuleius, *Apologia*

It seems that this author was once accused of practising harmful magic against a woman he was then married to. In this work he defends his innocence in a strong, and sometimes even a little bit funny, way.

✓ Apuleius, *The Golden Ass*

The story presented in Apuleius' *Golden Ass*, also known as *The Metamorphose* due to the fact it features a man turning into an ass after shortly delving into the magical arts, appears to have been a famous one, with a similar plot also being attributed to Lucian. However, they do diverge in some important elements; this one, for example, contains some long narrative passages unrelated to the main story, such as a retelling of the

myth of Eros and Psyche, which made it particularly famous and worthy of mention over Lucian's own treatment of the same tale.

✓      Apuleius, *On the Cosmos*

Essentially a translation of Pseudo-Aristotle's work on the same subject, with a bit of information adapted for the Romans. Like the greek author's, it contains a small description of our world, followed by some considerations on Physics and on the nature of God.

✓      Apuleius, *On the Doctrines of Plato*      \*

Through three books, specially regarding Natural Philosophy, Moral Philosophy and Philosophy of Reasoning, this author here sums up the main doctrines of Plato.

✓      (Thomas) Aquinas, *De Modo Studendi*

A very short epistle written to a brother, in which the author essentially provides succinct pieces of advice on how to study.

✓      (Thomas) Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*      \*

My fellow reader, to be completely honest with you, I

tried to read this multiple times, due to its profound influence in western culture and Theology, but it is perhaps one of the most complex works mankind has ever produced. For that reason I could never finish it; if you decide to face this work by yourself, I strongly suggest you prepare yourself very well in advance.

✓      *Aratus, Phaenomena*

Once very popular – Cicero himself appears to have produced a now-lost Latin translation of it – this work on constellations contains very limited mythological information and many scientifically inaccurate passages.

•      Archilochus, Fragments

✓      *Archimedes, The Sand Reckoner*

In case you have ever wondered how many grains of sand can fit the entire universe, this is the book to read. It's not a simple or particularly enjoyable one, but from a mathematical standpoint it allows readers to understand how authors back then dealt with extremely large numbers.

✓ (H. M.) Arden, *The Romance of the Rose* \*

This commentary on the medieval *Romance of Rose* presents the original's plot in a simple way. Given the fact the original work is at times extremely metaphorical and hard to understand (the influence from Prudentius' *Psychomachia* being well seen in here), this book may help readers understand it better.

✓ (Lisa) Ariganello, *Henry the Navigator: Prince of Portuguese Exploration*

Although this book was clearly written for younger audiences, with simple text and plenty of images, it is also very confusing and disorganized. I could not truly follow it, I really felt it just provided almost random facts related to the time of Henry the Navigator, at one point even presenting a culinary recipe from North Africa (but, curiously, none from Portugal).

✓ (Ludovico) Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso* \*

This Italian epic from the XVI century is a sequel to another author's (unfinished) *Orlando in Love*, and so attempting to read it requires at least some basic introduction to the characters from the preceding work. However, it is also a famous book on its own



right, and even had some significant influence on later culture. Essentially, it presents the concurring adventures of several different characters, of which the most significant is the titular Orlando (also known as Roland in other medieval texts); across them intervene many magical, mythological, fantastic and satirical elements, with a large number of unexpected plot twists, making this a book which is quite fun even for casual readers.

However, regarding this same epic poem, a note must also be made regarding one of the translations I had access to, David R. Slavitt's – although it is very easy to read, it significantly changes the original (going as far as omitting entire chapters and adding unusual cultural references), which makes it a whole new work, instead of a real translation of Ariosto's.

#### ✓ Aristeas, *Letter of Aristeas*

This famous letter preserves the legendary story of the *Septuagint*, according to which 72 scholars, while under divine influence, produced 72 miraculous greek translations of the so-called Old Testament with the exact same content.

✓ Aristides of Athens, *Apology*

One of the first apologies written in favour of the Christian religion.

• Aristophanes, *Assemblywomen*<sup>9</sup>

✓ Aristophanes, *Birds*

In this comedy the birds of the sky are convinced to create their own city and dethrone the gods of Mount Olympus. I read it may have been inspired by the myth of the Gigantomachy.

✓ Aristophanes, *Clouds*

A comedy famous for the fact it presents some negative mentions to the philosopher Socrates.

✓ Aristophanes, *Frogs*

In this comedy the god Dionysus goes down to the underworld in search of Euripides. The work contains

---

9 I always had a lot of difficulty recalling the content of comedies, since they may amuse readers but frequently fail to teach them anything new or specially interesting regarding myths.

multiple cultural and mythological references.

- Aristophanes, *Knights*

- ✓ Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*

This comedy presents a group of women who go on a sex strike, hoping by that action to lead their husbands to accept a particular peace treaty.

- Aristophanes, *Peace*

- ✓ Aristophanes, *Pluto*

A comedy in which the god of wealth is cured of his famous blindness, and how that action ends up impacting all of mankind.

- Aristophanes, *Wasps*
- Aristophanes, *Women Celebrating the Festival of the Thesmophoria*

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Aristotle, *On Marvellous Things Heard*

A compilation of unusual curiosities.

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Aristotle, *On the Cosmos*

This treatise explains how the world – or “cosmos”, in the sense of everything that exists – works. It contains a small description of our world, followed by considerations on Physics and on the nature of God.

✓ Aristotle, [*Nicomachean*] *Ethics*

One of the most essential works in western philosophical tradition, particularly in the area of knowledge it gave its name to.

• Aristotle, *History of Animals* \*

✓ Aristotle, *On Dreams*

Essentially explaining how dreams work.

• Aristotle, *On Interpretation*

✓ Aristotle, *On Prophesying by Dreams*

It can essentially be complemented with the treatise above, this one adding information on whether dreams truly allow people to predict the future, or they're just mumbo-jumbo.

• Aristotle, *On Youth and Old Age, On Life and*

## *Death, On Breathing*

### ✓ Aristotle, *Poetics*

Perhaps among Aristotle's most famous works, and an absolutely required book for those interested in the history of literary criticism. It is not an easy book to read, but it does contain lots of really interesting information about literature and the theoretical aspects behind comedies and tragedies, the author considering Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* as pinnacle of the latter. Unfortunately, it should also contain a book on comedies, which was lost across the centuries (or never written at all).

### • Aristotle, *Politics* \*

### ✓ Aristotle, *Protrepticus* (f)

This work is only extant in fragments, and possibly inspired Cicero for his *Hortensius*, which is also only available in fragments itself. They both exhorted the study of Philosophy.

### ✓ Arius, *Thalia* (f)

By Arius, the founder of Arianism<sup>10</sup>, the *Thalia* is a fragmentary poem which summarized the author's view of the "Logos", an essential part of his Christian doctrine. The fact it was mostly lost is certainly derived from the fact this particular belief was heavily criticized and banned across the centuries.

✓ (Karen) Armstrong, *A History of God*

A book on the past, present and future of "god", both as a philosophical and theological concept.

✓ (Karen) Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth*

Like the previous one, this book approaches the history of myths, both in the past and present.

✓ Arnobius, *Adversus Nationes*

A Christian apology from the beginning of the IV century AD. I recall it contains plenty of really interesting arguments against the Roman religion, along with some unusual myths and some sequences which you would generally not expect to find in an apologist for Christianity, like admitting he doesn't

---

10 Not to be confused with Hitler's *Aryanism*!

have all the answers, either for his arguments against the former religion or in favour of his new one.

- ✓ (Paul) Aron, *Unsolved Mysteries of American History* \*

The title says it well for this one, covering mysteries from who first discovered America to topics like Nixon and Watergate. The author does a good job in explaining each of the cases and why they are still unsolved to this day, and even provides some bibliography for readers wanting to explore each of those topics even further.

- ✓ Arrian(?), *Enchiridion / Manual of Epictetus*  
A short summary of the central ideas of Epictetus.

- ✓ Artemidorus Daldianus, *The Interpretation of Dreams*

The biggest and most important work on dream interpretation that reached us from the Antiquity. It essentially explains everything you'll need to know in order to interpret your own dreams; unlike many modern mumbo-jumbo books with similar goals, this one can be defended based on the fact the original

author wrote it for his child, hoping they too would take on the same art, and for that reason you can, at the very least, assume they meant well (whether dream interpretation works, or not, is an entirely different question).

- ✓ (Don) Arvidsson, *From Desumasu to Buzzwole: A categorization of Japanese-to-English translation methods in localized Pokémon names*

Although the whole idea behind this thesis is an interesting one, the fact the author simply categorizes the methods used to translate the names and gives out some examples of each, makes it feel like the work was somewhat left incomplete. Curiously, the author did categorize all names, showing he did perform such an extended work for all Pokemon available at the time, but he doesn't directly show all that information in the version I had access to, and he definitely should have, for information's sake.

- ✓ (Adam) Ashforth, *The Xhosa Cattle Killing and the Politics of Memory*

A review of a book about an historical episode from the mid XIX century South Africa, involving Nongqawuse, a



young girl with a prophecy. This review very briefly presents the events, but also some of the problems they involve.

- ✓ (Michael) Ashkenazi, *Handbook of Japanese Mythology*

A noteworthy introductory book on Japanese Mythology, focusing both on the native Shinto beliefs and the Buddhist ones derived from the asiatic mainland. The author provides a very extensive introduction to the cultural background of those beliefs, but when it comes to retelling some myths by himself, I felt the work was perhaps not as detailed as one would have wanted.

- ✓ (Mike) Ashley, *The Mammoth Book of King Arthur*

This book is a sort of “everything you wanted to know about King Arthur and were afraid to ask”. It is written in a very simple way, and yet features a plethora of information that even much more famous scholarly editions frequently leave aside. If you’re looking for a secondary source on King Arthur, this is undoubtedly a good option!

✓ (Howard) Ashman, *Aladdin, Preliminary Version*

A preliminary treatment of the story of Aladdin for what would eventually become Disney's *Aladdin*. This is a noteworthy text as it allows the reader to explore the evolution of the story, and how the original tale was changed through stages until it became what you can now see on film.

- (John) Ashton, *The Legendary History of the Cross*

✓ Ashvaghosha, *Buddhacarita*

The earliest full biography of the Buddha, in the form of an epic poem. It is a particularly interesting epic in the sense that it features no physical battles, with the hero instead facing his "opponents" via short debates and direct explanations of his beliefs.

✓ Asterius of Amasea, *Sermon 1 (Rich Man and Lazarus)*

I once read this work expecting it to be about the *other* Lazarus. Instead, it is a sermon about a passage coming from the *Gospel According to Luke*.

- ✓ Asterius of Amasea, *Sermon 4 (On the festival of the Calends)*

In this sermon the author reports several New Year (pagan) traditions from the ending of the IV century AD, featuring information that isn't so easy to find elsewhere.

- ✓ Astrampsychus, *Dream Book*

This book's name is somewhat misleading, as it is not a work on the prediction of the future by dreams. Instead, it's an auxiliary book for the prediction of the future, relying on numbers to give a questioner potential answers to the questions he may have.

- ✓ (Francisco Xavier de) Ataíde Oliveira, *As mouras encantadas e os encantamentos no Algarve, com algumas notas elucidativas* \*

Perhaps the most interesting book on the Enchanted Moors from Portugal, in the sense that the author, at the end of the XIX century, tried to preserve the original stories coming from oral sources. In many cases, he even reports how he obtained each specific piece of information.

- Athanasius of Alexandria, *Life of Saint Anthony [the Great]*

- ✓ Athenaeus of Naucratis, *Deipnosophistae* \*

In this work several philosophers have a dinner and discuss all sorts of topics. Not only are their debates quite enjoyable, but they also preserve plenty of quotes from many works which have disappeared long ago. A work similar to the *Attic Nights* and the *Saturnalia*, except it was originally written in Greek.

- ✓ Athenagoras of Athens, *Embassy for the Christians*

Another Christian apology, this one addressed to Marcus Aurelius and his son.

- ✓ (Chris) Aubeck, *Birmingham's Ark: An airship from the spirit world*

A brief but modern pamphlet, about how one Fred Birmingham, who lived in the XIX century, had a dream or vision of a flying machine. The author of this analytical text brief recaps the entire story and tries to keep it all unbiased, even offering potential

explanations to the whole occurrence, which he openly admits could be seen very differently in a more modern context.

✓ (J. M. A.) Aubin, *Histoire de la Nation Mexicaine*  
In spite of its name, this is actually a reproduction and supposed french translation of the so-called "Aubin Codex". The former is presented at the beginning of the book, with the latter then following it, making it hard to compare the original text and drawings with the actual translation. Either way, this succinctly retells the story of the natives who ran away from Aztlán when the Spanish conquered it.

• (Saint) Augustine, *Against Lying* \*

✓ (Saint) Augustine, *City of God*  
Augustine's *De Civitate Dei* is clearly among the most important Christian apologetic works. It can be divided into two essential sequences, with the first ten books criticising Roman religion and philosophy, while the remaining twelve eulogize and defend the ideas of Christianity in itself.

What is specially important in the former group is that

it preserves lots of important mythical and cultural content, which is often not available anywhere else. He quotes, for example, from Varro's lost *Human and Divine Antiquities*, stressing that the Romans had over 10000 deities, affecting all areas of life "from cradle to grave", and provides multiple examples of that less-known form of pantheism<sup>11</sup>. For that reason, those first books, along with book XVIII, are particularly relevant for the study of Roman myths and culture.

✓ (Saint) Augustine, *Confessions*

This is Augustine's other major work, an autobiographical one. For the study of mythological content it is certainly a lot less important than the one mentioned above, but it does preserve some notable mentions to Cicero's *Hortensius*, the work which led this author to convert to Christianity.

✓ (Saint) Augustine, *Contra Faustum* \*

At first having been a Manichaeon, Augustine

---

11 My memory may be betraying me, but I think that Augustine, along with Lactantius, are among the two main church authorities who quote from it.

eventually met this Faustus and noticed that he didn't have all the answers despite seemingly being a wise man, while lead the author to eventually convert to mainstream Christianity. That's when he wrote this book against his original teacher and the doctrine they had once both accepted.

✓ (Saint) Augustine, *Enchiridon* \*

A philosophical manual of the christian faith, where the author both presents the main beliefs of his Christianity and tries to explain them to the man who requested that this book should be written. Also, although the author alludes to some non-biblical legends here and there, it should be noted that he doesn't actually retell them, showing that those (seemingly oral) sources were already well known by then.

✓ (Saint) Augustine, *Letter 102 [5 questions on Christianity]*

Although short, this epistle presents an answer to five very important questions related to Christian belief.

- (Saint) Augustine, *On Lying*<sup>12</sup> \*
- ✓ (Saint) Augustine, *To Quodvultdeus, On Heresies*

This book contains small-sum ups of 88 heresies, with some of the information having been gathered personally by the author, while the remaining one explicitly coming from the works of Epiphanius and Philastrius. It is particularly noteworthy for the fact it sums up the beliefs of many different heresies in a very succinct way, synthesizing them so the reader can quickly understand their essential beliefs.

- ✓ Augustus, *The Deeds of the Divine Augustus*
- In this work the first Roman emperor, Augustus, reports his own deeds. It seems the text presented here was originally inscribed in two bronze pillars.

- ✓ Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* \*

Similar to the *Deipnosophistae* mentioned just a few paragraphs above, it is a work which preserves lots of

---

12 Similar to the one referred above, but should be expressed to be an entirely different work.



unusual information, stories and miscellaneous facts, apparently ones the author had been jotting down for years and eventually decided to publish in a book form.

✓ Ausonius, *Caesars*

Very short biographies and pieces of information regarding the *caesares* of the Roman Empire.

✓ Ausonius, *Cupid Crucified* \*

Poem describing a painting the poet had once seen.

✓ Ausonius, *Doings of a whole day*

This is undoubtedly an unusual work. It reports what the author did, or could have possibly done, in a single day of his life. Although the idea behind it may seem very strange, it does preserve us, at least idealistically, a typical day in the IV century AD Roman Empire.

• Ausonius, *Epigrams*

✓ Ausonius, *Epitaphs of the Trojan War*

Twenty-six epitaphs composed in honour of heroes who participated in the Trojan War. Not all of them are

actually presented here – for example, heroes such as Penthesilea and Memnon are entirely absent – but they do mention main characters and events from the Homeric Epics, among them the way in which Protesilaus was lured to his death by Odysseus.

✓ *Ausonius, Games of the Seven Sages*

A short, play-like, sequence, in which the so-called “Seven Sages” appear and present us part of their most famous ideas.

✓ *Ausonius, Parentalia*

Another unusual work, in which Ausonius presents some poems he had written for his deceased family members.

✓ *Ausonius, Professors*

Similar to the just-presented work, the author here composing some poems on the professors he himself had met before.

✓ *Ausonius, The Order of the Famous Cities*

Reporting on several towns visited by the author, which he describes and orders by their importance. The best

one is, evidently, the city of Rome itself.

- ✓ (Alonso Fernández de) Avellaneda, *A continuation of the history and adventures of the renowned Don Quixote de la Mancha*

A false sequel to the first adventures of Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, written by an entirely different author (and, apparently, leading to an official sequel by Cervantes himself). I had very mixed feelings about it; if it focuses a lot more on the influence of chivalric romances, repeatedly making very direct allusions to their stories, some of its plot points are plainly disappointing, as they often start by suggesting something that could be very interesting – like a possible meet-up between Quixote and Orlando – only to repeatedly pull the proverbial rug from under the reader's feet and consistently disappoint him with the actual outcome. It is, however, a noteworthy read if you're interested in medieval chivalry romances.

- ✓ Avianus, *Fables*

A compilation of 42 fables, some of which also contain references to the gods and their myths. Also, it contains some famous stories, such as the one of the

golden goose, the ant and the cicada, and the ass in the lion's skin, among others.

✓ (Virginia M.) Axline, *Dibs in Search of Self*

This is, hands down, the most interesting non-fiction book related to Psychology I ever read. It kept me completely hooked from page to page, absolutely amazed at Dibs and all the things he said he did with his therapist – he was 5 years old at the time the plot begins, he later turns 6, but he was clearly a very, very special boy, and one is left wondering what later became of him. Amazing book.

✓ (J. Lúcio D') Azevedo, *A Evolução do Sebastianismo*

Essentially a short history of the Portuguese myth of "Sebastianismo". At the end, it also contains copies of some historical documents relevant to the whole subject.

### 3- Section B

✓ Babrius, Fables

Around the II century AD this author wrote fables, but many of them are today confused with Aesop's. For that reason, nowadays compilations of fables from that author often feature some by Babrius too.

✓ (Richard) Bach, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*

Perhaps a bit too short, but a thought-provoking philosophical novel about a seagull who loved flying just for the sake of it. Some parts of it are a bit unusual, but they are all nonetheless capable of evoking philosophical debate on how great ideas get diluted with time. Also, the edition I read had a lot of photographs from seagulls, which I assume were there for context with the plot, but they were not particularly beautiful or interesting (in my opinion!)

✓ (Francis) Bacon, *New Atlantis*

An incomplete utopian novel, where some sailors get lost in the Pacific Ocean and eventually come across an island with an ideal culture and government. It is a

good example of a utopian novel, sure, but far from pleasing for our days.

- (Brian C.) Baer, *How He-Man Mastered the Universe: Toy to Television to the Big Screen*
- (Jose) Baez, *Presumed Guilty - Casey Anthony: The Inside Story*

✓ Bahman Kaikobad, *Qissa-i Sanjan*

An account of the moving and events later unfolded with Zoroastrians when they moved to India. Although it doesn't reveal much about their faith, it retells its beginning, some cultural aspects, and some of their struggles until the author's own day.

✓ (Antonio) Baião, *Episódios Dramáticos da Inquisição Portuguesa*

Through its two volumes, this work reports a few cases from the Portuguese Inquisition regarding some of its most famous accused figures from the areas of Letters and Sciences, such as the Priest António Vieira.

Occasionally it quotes from the original documents, but more often it simply resumes each case. Also worthy of note is a large section of the second volume titled

"Varia", which presents additional topics also related to the Portuguese Inquisition, among which one of the most interesting describes how they tortured people to obtain their confessions.

- ✓ (Michael) Baigent, *Ancient Traces – Mysteries in Ancient and Early History* \*

On several ancient mysteries. However, it is quite a disappointing book, since it consistently only presents one side of the question, as seems to be overly common in the genre.

- ✓ (Michael) Baigent, *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*

This book is famous as the basis of inspiration for *The Da Vinci Code*, particularly the idea that Jesus and Mary Magdalene had children and they became part of a secret bloodline. If taken by itself, without any critical spirit, it does present a very intriguing and compelling storyline, but when you realize the whole "Priory of Sion" idea was almost certainly a complete hoax – as the authors considered, but ultimately ended up rejecting, in this same book – all its potential interest quickly vanishes.

- ✓ (Michael D.) Bailey, *Magic and Superstition in Europe*

A simple and yet interesting historical account of magical beliefs in the Old Continent.

- ✓ (Nicholas J.) Baker-Brian, *Manichaeism: An Ancient Faith Rediscovered*

Although not written as an introduction to the whole subject, this book essentially sums up all the information we still have on Manichaeism and its beliefs, but it was undoubtedly written for people who already have a significant knowledge of it.

- ✓ (Kyokutei) Bakin, *Nanso Satomi Hakkenden* \*

This novel, famous in Japan, was written in the XIX century, and it still seems to be popular nowadays. It contains both historical and mystical elements, and it was likely the source behind the idea of the seven dragon balls (in Akira Toriyama's *Dragonball*).

Unfortunately, so far it does not exist in a complete translation – I had to read it through a summed-up english version published in 1990s.



- ✓ (Betty) Ballantine(?), *The Fantastic Art of Frank Frazetta*

Basically a compilation of some of the art created by this one illustrator. It clearly seems to be a product of its time, with a lot of barbarians, at least one image based on Middle Earth, and so on.

- ✓ (Theresa) Bane, *Encyclopedia of Beasts and Monsters in Myth, Legend and Folklore*

I had very mixed feelings about this specific book. If, in one hand, it contains brief information on a very large number of creatures from multiple countries around the globe, in the other it provides a lot of information on topics from some countries and almost none about others. At the same time, although the author associates encyclopedic bibliography to each individual entry, she seems to have taken and compiled that information without any critical sense, which leads to many issues – a ton of entries on irrelevant subjects (like the individual names of Actaeon's dogs), some inaccurate ones, their degree of detail varies a lot, the author gives the same amount of credibility to completely different sources, etc. Overall, perhaps this is a work you can use to find

some basic information on many figures, but you definitely have to compare and contrast them with other sources, too.

- ✓ (Helen) Bannerman, *The Story of Little Black Sambo*

A children's story written in 1899 and considered racist in the US, but which people from elsewhere may find childishly amusing. The edition I read, from 1908, also had an additional story about Topsy from *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, but that one was a lot less interesting.

- ✓ (Anna Laetitia) Barbauld, *Lessons for Children (I)*

Once a popular work – in four volumes – to introduce children to reading, this first volume presents the months of the years with brief descriptions, along with the voices of animals, some basic words for around the house, and ends with a small story.

- ✓ (Richard) Barber, *Bestiary, being an English version of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS Bodley 764*

Simply the English translation of a medieval bestiary,

which turns out being important because this kind of content is rarely available in anything other than its original language.

- ✓ (Ignacio de Vilhena) Barbosa, *As cidades e villas da monarchia portugueza que teem brasão d'armas* \*

This work contains succinct historical information on the cities and villages from Portugal in the XIX century. In many cases it talks about their respective coat of arms and explains where they come from, but – regrettably – the author does not provide this information for all the places, possibly because he wasn't able to find it either.

- ✓ (Ignacio de Vilhena) Barbosa, *Monumentos de Portugal: Historicos, Artisticos e Archeologicos* \*

Published near the end of the XIX century, this work features extensive historical information and multiple drawings from some of Portugal's most famous monuments.

- ✓ Bardesanes, *Book of the Laws of Various Countries*

This work has a sequence in which are reported unusual laws coming from many different places. There is no horizontal consistency in the facts it reports, instead seemingly just mentioning random strange laws.

- ✓ (S.) Baring-Gould, *The Book of Werewolves: Being an Account of a Terrible Superstition* \*

On the origin of werewolves, and the prevalence of such belief in western cultures, with fewer examples from other ones. The late chapters, presenting some stories from around the author's own time, are intriguing but, for me, they were not as enjoyable as the initial ones.

- ✓ (S.) Baring-Gould, *Curiosities of Olden Times* \*

About several different topics, which can broadly be described as curiosities from the past. Some chapters are naturally more interesting than others, with the one on strange saints being particularly worth of noting down.

- ✓ (S.) Baring-Gould, *Curious Myths of the Middle Ages* \*

A collection of myths and legends from the Middle Ages, complete with an extensive commentary on them, and some parallelisms to other cultures. Also, some of the stories present here are still famous in our own day and age, such as the “Man in the Moon”, the “Pied Piper of Hamelin”, or Pope Joan’s, among several others.

- (S.) Baring-Gould, *Lives of the Saints, Volume 1\**
  
- ✓ (S.) Baring-Gould, *The Lost and Hostile Gospels*  
 A simple commentary on texts that were lost or presented information contrary to that of the mainstream Christian Church. It could have been interesting when it was written, back in the XIX century, but nowadays there are much better options out there, such as the volume usually titled *Nag Hammadi Library*.
  
- ✓ (Gregory A.) Barker, *Jesus Beyond Christianity: The Classic Texts \**

Although this is a book about the way Jesus is seen in other religions, its title is very misleading. It does

present a wide variety of different perspectives about Jesus Christ in Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, but the texts themselves are “classic” neither in their age nor in their potentially canonical status. It contains some intriguing extracts here and there, but that’s about it.

- ✓ (Adam) Barkman, *Anime, Manga and Christianity: A Comprehensive Analysis*

This is certainly a good topic for a research paper, but this author’s work here is just too simplistic of an approach, essentially showing how Christianity is used in a few manga and anime, but never going much further than that or explaining why they are really used in such a way (e.g. why are characters sometimes often captured and held in crosses?), leaving plenty of room for improvement.

- ✓ (P. T.) Barnum(?), *Barnum's American Museum Illustrated* \*

The authorship is not entirely known, but this pamphlet, seemingly sold at the original museum, briefly presents what could be seen in it, through some impressive engravings, and contains some of the

legends associated with the presented materials.

✓ (P. T.) Barnum, *Barnum's Own Story*

A unique modern compilation of (three?) Barnum's autobiographies, to produce one continuing story. It has some very interesting moments and some very boring ones. Perhaps it is safe to say that what was important to the writer is not the same thing a reader of our day and age would love to hear more about. For example, he dedicates many pages to introducing General Tom Thumb and the Fiji Mermaid, but talks very little about some of his later "acquisitions" and acts, which I'd definitely would have loved to learn more about from his own words.

✓ (P. T.) Barnum, *The Humbugs of the World*

By the famous P. T. Barnum, certainly a scholar on the subject at hand, this book is about myths, hoaxes and scams around the world. It is an interesting work, but it is also a shame that the author dedicates very few lines to his own hoaxes, a subject he only mentions in passing here and there, such as when he openly admits his golden pigeons were false but the angelfish were real. If you're interesting in these subjects in the

context of the XIX century, this is definitely worth reading – it covers topics from Spiritism and miraculous cures to mysterious men and women around the world, along with some brief chapters on religions and beliefs from the Antiquity.

✓ (Julio Caro) Baroja, *Las brujas y su mundo*

The first part of this book is essentially a succinct history of european witchcraft. However, the second one is much more interesting, since it approaches the same subject but in the specific context of Spain, providing examples from that country and how they impacted the local societies to this day.

✓ (Gaspar) Barreiros, *Censuras de Gaspar Barreiros sobre quatro liuros intitulos em M. Portio Catam De Originibus, em Beroso Chaldaeo, em Manethon Aegyptio & em Q. Fabio Pictor Romano*

This book from mid-XVI century Portugal essentially proves that four of the works used in *The Annals of Viterbo*, by so-called Annius of Viterbo, were just modern forgeries, likely by that author himself. Basically, to prove this he shows that extant fragments



of the authors do not really correspond with the newly-found works.

✓ (J. M.) Barrie, *Peter and Wendy*

Likely the most famous book on the Peter Pan story, adapted from the author's original play. Chances are that you already know most of the story, which is not that impressive in itself, but the final chapter is particularly strange and may raise many worrying questions among younger readers.

✓ (J. M.) Barrie, *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*

Its story preceding the book above, this is essentially Peter Pan's backstory, from the time he was born up to his adventures in the Kensington Gardens with the famous Maimie Mannering. Strangely enough, the plot is a bit dark.

✓ (João de) Barros, *Crónica do Imperador Clarimundo* \*

A Portuguese chivalry romance, which I was once invited to read by someone very dear to me.

Interesting for the way in which it intersects legend with historical facts.

- ✓ (Salvador José de) Barros, *Desengano de Alucinados*

A strange XVIII century story from Portugal, supposedly translated from an Italian composition, on a man who with the help of the devil does all sorts of bad things. One would expect him to be punished in the end, and although he does end up in hell, that moment of the story is presented so succinctly that it hardly counts as punishment at all.

- ✓ Bartolomeu de Gusmão, Description of the "Passarola"

According to the story, in the beginning of the XVIII century Bartolomeu de Gusmão made a famous flying ship in the shape of a bird. A small description and drawing of the invention are still extant.

- ✓ (Giambattista) Basile, *The Tale of Tales*

A compilation of tales from the Renaissance, some of which were later adapted and became known among us as part of some collections of fairy tales.

- ✓ (Francisco António Martins) Bastos, *Vida e Morte*

*de Diogo Alves*

The oldest biography of Diogo Alves, the famous killer from Portugal, which was actually published in the year of his death, but it contains more fiction than actual fact.

- ✓ (Kemp P.) Battle, *Great American Folklore: Legends, Tales, Ballads, and Superstitions from all Across America* \*

This is one of those cases in which the title perfectly describes what the book itself is all about – this one contains random legends, tales, ballads and reports of Superstitions from all across the US and Canada, seemingly selected from among the countries' most famous, which the author retells in a literary form. It can be a good point of departure for further explorations.

- ✓ (Dominique) Battles, *The Medieval Tradition of Thebes*

On how the myth of the Theban War evolved from Statius' *Thebaid* up to its medieval (and late) depictions, particularly the ones of the *Roman de Thebes*, Boccaccio, Chaucer and Lydgate. Essentially, it

focuses on presenting how each of those works adapted and changed the “original” plot and episodes, but unfortunately it doesn’t tell us much more about the specific content of each of those texts.

- ✓ (Martha) Bayless, *Alcuin's Disputatio Pippini and the early medieval riddle tradition*

The author presents the work at hand, along with its original text in Latin, and then a translation of it into English, which had previously been featured in another source.

- ✓ (Martha) Bayless, *Parody in the Middle Ages: The Latin Tradition* \*

This is an introduction to the main parodies written in the european (western) Middle Ages. The author introduces all the main ones, and the relationship between them, but – and that is possibly this work’s most interesting feature – she also presents some annexes at the end with the translation of some of the most significative texts, so making them available to those who do not speak Latin.

- ✓ (Pier Franco) Beatrice, *Pagan Wisdom and*

*Christian Theology According to the Tübingen  
Theosophy*

A research paper presenting some background information on what is usually called the *Tübingen Theosophy*, a compilation of pagan oracles and testimonials which made some allusion to Christianity and its beliefs.

✓      Beatrice Sparks, *Go Ask Alice*    \*

Originally published with "Anonymous" authorship, I had heard about this book as if it had been written by a real teen and it was a real diary. However, when I picked up a copy out of sheer curiosity, I ended up finding it was hilariously bad, to the point I could not understand why would anyone ever think this could have been real at all. From the non-teen speech patterns to the absurdity of how new topics are introduced, along with the fact drug-related topics are way too developed but emotional ones are barely in, and even the random censorships of some elements, this work is a waste of time.

✓      (Bob) Becking, *Only One God? Monotheism in  
Ancient Israel and the Veneration of the*

### *Goddess Asherah*

This work, and its individual articles, appears to focus mostly on how Judaism became monotheistic, but it does have some chapters and sequences focusing specially on Asherah, as YHWH's former consort. At the same time, if you know little about her, the work also never seems to introduce her in a very direct and simple way, though.

- ✓ (Venerable) Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*

A history written around the ending of the VII century AD. Contains lots of unique information, and it is definitely a crucial work for studying the history of early church in England.

- ✓ (Scott M.) Beekman, *Ringside: A History of Professional Wrestling in America* \*

I got this book hoping to learn more about the subject at hand, but this is a complete snoozefest. It contains many facts – whether right, or wrong, I cannot judge – but they are presented in such a dry way that attempting to read them is an unbearable chore.

- ✓ (Aubrey F. G.) Bell, *The Eleven Songs of Joan Zorro*

A brief introduction to João Zorro, a thirteenth century poet from Portugal, which contains 11 songs from him, all of them presented here in the original and with a translation into English.

- ✓ (Louie M.) Bell, *Mythology in Marble*

A simple book on Classical Mythology, in which each entry presents an image of a mythological figure in marble, followed by an extremely succinct retelling of its main myth, an interpretation of it (which, unfortunately, is always far from accurate, and has very little interest), and some information on where the statue itself came from. The photos are certainly interesting, but with the exception of the information regarding the origin of the statues, this book has very little horizontal interest.

- ✓ (Ruth) Benedict, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: Patterns of Japanese Culture* \*

Written after the Second World War, this work essentially compares some aspects of American culture with traditional Japanese one. I am not sure if the

ideas contained here still all apply today.

- ✓ Benjamin Franklin, *Way to Wealth* \*

A compilation of wisdom sentences that the author felt could profit his readers, seemingly once published in a newspaper.

- ✓ (José) Benoliel, *Episódio do Gigante Adamastor: Estudo Crítico*

Focusing on the episode of "Adamastor" from the Portuguese epic *Lusiads*, this study argues that Camões based it on certain episodes of the Bible, Classical Mythology and the *1001 Nights*. Although he does show some occasional parallelisms between those works, I myself found myself unconvinced.

- ✓ (Angelo Di) Berardino, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Christianity* \*

An encyclopedia with almost endless topics related to Ancient Christianity, from concepts and works up to saints and popes. You can find it (almost) all in here, together with significant bibliography, a minor problem being the fact that the authors occasionally mention editions and translations for some of the works



mentioned, but not to others.

- ✓ (Luci) Berkowitz, *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae: Canon of Greek Authors and Works*

Supposedly, this would be a listing of all currently available authors and works in Ancient Greek language. In the edition I had access to (the second one), it was clearly not complete. The biggest issue, though, is the fact that it only lists the authors, works, and at least one available edition, but it doesn't tell us the topic of each particular work; frequently, it is even possible to mix-up fragmentary works with complete ones, which is a bit of a hassle. However, it is definitely a good resource if you're looking to find authors and works you've never heard of before.

- ✓ (Martin) Bernal, *Black Athena [Vol. 1]: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece, 1785-1985*

This book essentially argues that although Ancient Greece saw itself as a descendant of the culture of Egypt, such paradigm was heavily changed in more recent centuries, due to a set of entirely new ideas, of which the most significant one seems to be a supposed systematic academic racism. Whether you support

such thesis or not, there is certainly an intriguing element to it, since the author succinctly presents the evolution of the study of Classics between the XVIII and XX centuries.

✓ Bernard de la Monnoye, *La chanson de la Palisse*  
A satirical song on the deeds of Jacques de La Palice, filled with the famous truisms that appear to have characterized such a figure after this death. Apparently, there are many different versions of these songs, with the original one being hard to track down.

✓ (Frei) Bernardo de Brito, *Monarchia Lusytana*  
(*Parte Primeira*) \*

This historical work from the XVI century reports everything that happened in the Iberian Peninsula between the creation of the world and the birth of Jesus Christ. If this plot synopsis seems intriguingly unusual to you, it is because it relies essentially in mythological and legendary information instead of facts, and so it is easy to come up with a plot for the far-away past of Portugal and Spain.

✓ (Frei) Bernardo de Brito, *Monarchia Lusytana*

(*Parte Segunda*) \*

A sequel to the above, this volume tells the story of Portugal and Spain from the birth of Jesus Christ up to reign of Count Henrique, i.e. just before Portugal was technically born. Although it still contains some legendary material, it also tends to focus a bit more on facts than the volume above.

✓ (Francesco) Berni, *Orlando Innamorato* \*

Essentially a stylistically-improved version of Ariosto's *Orlando Innamorato*, from the middle of the XVI century.

✓ Bérout, *Tristan et Yseut*

A french medieval version of the story of Tristan and Iseult, this one seemingly having been based on local oral sources, and which appears to be the oldest extant source for their story. An aspect which has always fascinated is the fact that the effect of the love potion drunk by the two lovers eventually runs out, while in other versions of the story it has an endless duration. Despite the change, in this version, preserved in a single manuscript, all the story lacks its beginning and the end.

- ✓ (Christopher) Berry-Dee, *Talking With Serial Killers: The Most Evil Men in the World Tell Their Own Stories*

It seems the author of this book interviewed several serial killers and reports their stories in this book. It is definitely an interesting read, but the big issue is that it is never entirely obvious what specific information he obtained from the killers themselves, and what was gathered through other means. Besides, and very curiously, some of the “men” covered in this book are actually women, notably Aileen Wuornos.

- ✓ (Christopher) Berry-Dee, *Talking With Serial Killers 2: The World's Most Evil Killers Tell Their Stories* \*

A sequel of the book above, containing more stories from serial killers. However, for some reason I felt this one was a lot less interesting than the previous.

- ✓ (José Van Den) Besselaar, *O Sebastianismo – História Sumária* \*

On the rise and fall of the belief in “Sebastianismo”, a sort of Portuguese according to which King Sebastian

would one day come back to lead the country to victory. As the title best says it, this is a “summary history”, and so it leaves plenty of room for additional exploration by anyone who is interested in the topic.

- ✓ (Francisco) Bethencourt, *O Imaginário da Magia: Feiticeiras, Adivinhos e Curandeiros em Portugal no Século XVI*

An extended dissertation on magical practises in XVI century Portugal. Through its chapters the author approaches multiple topics around this main subject, the most interesting of which are, from a standpoint of myths and legends, the early ones, where magical beliefs are explained and in which the author transcribes some of the (many) rituals presented in reports from the Inquisition.

- ✓ Betty Hill, *The Interrupted Journey Continued, or A Common Sense Approach to Ufos*

A preliminary copy of a book later self-published as *A Common Sense Approach to UFOs*, this version still had some hand-written notes by the author, the first woman in the US allegedly kidnapped by UFOs. It was no easy find, but worth the \$24 price I had to pay for

it, since it is covered with really strange stories and, oddly, the author occasionally appears to range between perfect sanity and a mild mental condition, such as when she claims to have been multiple UFOs at once at multiple times.

- ✓ (Hans Dieter) Betz, *The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation, Including the Demonic Spells, Vol. 1\**

This contains Greek and Demotic Magical Spells with brief commentaries. Although it is not a very fun book to read one entry after another, it allows people to gain a more direct access to real magical spells from the Antiquity, a kind of resource which usually isn't available in translation.

- ✓ (B. R.) Bhagwat, *Mahabharata: The Great Epic of India*

A comic book version of the famous epic from India. The idea would be quite a good one, if it wasn't for the fact that the plot here moves way too quickly and often focuses on minor events. So, if you're already familiar with the story, you'll be able to recognise some of its events in this book, but if you're not, the way its

story and squares are structured will also not be very informative at all.

✓      Bhatti, *The Death of Ravana*

Also known as *Bhattikavya*, this VII century poem retells the story of the *Ramayana*, with special emphasis on the pinnacle of the war, Ravana's suffering at that time and his death. It can, in a way, be used as a resume of the famous indian epic in which it was based.

✓      (J.F.) Bierlein, *Parallel Myths*

A parallel presentation of myths from several different cultures, in areas such as "Creation Myths", "Journey to the Underworld" or "The End of the World", among others. It's an interesting and simple read.

✓      (E. R.) Bills, *Texas Obscurities: Stories of the Peculiar, Exceptional & Nefarious*      \*

A book with seemingly lesser-known real stories from the US state of Texas. Most of them are described briefly, but some contain some noteworthy photos and drawings related to them.

- ✓ (Francisco) Bilou, *Luís de la Penha: bruxo, vidente e curandeiro na Évora de Seiscentos*

Essentially this research paper presents everything we know about Luís de La Penha, a man who was burned for witchcraft in XVI century Portugal. This is important because witch-burnings were very infrequent in this country, which make his case specially rare and worthy of study.

- ✓ (Tilde) Binger, *Asherah: Goddesses in Ugarit, Israel and the Old Testament*

On the presence and attestation of a goddess named "Asherah" in the three cultures presented in the title. The author goes through the evidence for each of them and how they may potentially interconnect. Overall, it is well introduced and explained even to those who know little about the subject at hand.

- ✓ (Ann) Bingham, *South and Meso-American Mythology A to Z* \*

In its essence, this should be an encyclopedic work with entries for all the main mythical figures of South and Meso-America. However, even if you wanted to use this as an introductory work to the subject, the



information it provides on each of the figures is either just too limited, or has significant inaccuracies. So, this is quite a passable book.

✓ Bion, *Lament for Adonis*

A lament regarding the final part of the myth of Adonis, mentioning specifically his relationship with both Aphrodite and Persephone.

✓ (Pseudo-)Bion, *Achilles Among the Maidens* (f)

A small and fragmentary poem about the notable episode from Achilles' youth, where he lived among women. Regrettably, the poem also ends almost as quickly as it started, due to its currently-incomplete state.

✓ (Jeremy) Black, *The Literature of Ancient Sumer*

This work is essentially an anthology of texts produced in Ancient Sumer. Although the authors do provide fair introductions to each sequence and text, I disliked the fact they don't always provide complete thematic cycles, e.g. when they present several compositions on Inana and Tammuz, they do allude to the fact that her husband comes back, but don't provide readers with a

follow-up text where that actually takes place.

✓ Black Hawk, *Life of Black Hawk*

Written in 1833, this was the first book by a Native American published in the US. It is certainly notable for presenting their side of the conflict against the Europeans, and in some moments I couldn't help but feel sorry for the cultural clash his tribe had to go through.

✓ (Thomas) Blacklock, *Paraclesis* \*

Featuring two examples of consolation literature, this work from the XVIII century is notable for the fact it contains a rare translation of (Pseudo-)Cicero's *Consolation*, followed by a text written by Blacklock on consolation based on Christianity.

✓ (Amy Hackney) Blackwell, *The Myths, Legends, and Lore of Ireland: 101 Things You Didn't Know About The Emerald Isle* \*

This book's title is very misleading – in fact, in the edition I had access to, the cover did feature the "The Myths, Legends, and Lore of Ireland" title, but the first pages inside completely removed it. And this is

important, because although this work contains a very small number of myths and legends from Ireland, it is actually one about the history of the country through curiosities, unlike it seems to promise in the title.

- ✓ (Kieran G.) Blasingim, *Hero Myths in Japanese Role-Playing Games*

Although this could be a very interesting topic for a master thesis, the author reduces its interest way too much by simply providing one significant example for each chapter, instead of treating the whole subject more broadly. A complete disappointment over the topic the title suggests.

- ✓ (Helena) Blavatsky, *Isis Unveiled: A Master-Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology* \*

It is difficult to succinctly describe this book, in the sense that it approaches many different subjects in a completely jumbled and non-systematic way, to the point that the subject too often changes from one paragraph to the next with no understandable reasons. It does make a few good points here and there, but overall it tends to be a messy hodgepodge of unrelated

topics on areas such as Mysticism, Religion, Mythology, et al.

✓ (Helena) Blavatsky, *Key to Theosophy*\*

Supposedly, this work should be an exposition of the beliefs of Theosophy in a question-and-answer format. However, if most books that follow such format tend to present their ideas in an increasingly informative way, in this one the reader is constantly fed new information without ever being given any real opportunity to let it grow on them. So, reading this book quickly becomes a difficult chore, even if you're very interested in learning about the subject (like I was, at the time).

✓ (Tony) Blishen, *Illustrated Myths and Legends of China: The Ages of Chaos and Heroes*

A very interesting work retelling some of the most significant foundation myths from China, most of them illustrated with many beautiful representations from times of yore.

✓ (John James) Blunt, *Vestiges of Ancient Manners and Customs, Discoverable in Modern Italy and*

### *Sicily*

Released in 1823, and apparently forbidden by the Catholic Church some time before 1909, this work presents some noteworthy parallelisms between Roman Antiquity and XIX century Italy. What may have contributed to it having been forbidden by the Church is the fact that it presents many hard-to-deny parallelisms between pagan and catholic rituals, ideas and fables, which could get potential readers thinking about what else was not-so-true in their own current Christian beliefs.

- ✓ (Don) Bluth, *Somewhere Out There: My Animated Life*

An autobiography by this animation legend. It is written in a pleasing way, but I also felt he was too brief when it came down to talk about his movies.

- ✓ (John) Boardman, *Athenian Black Figure Vases\**

A work beautifully adorned with 320 black and white pictures of vases, picked over several different categories, which are explained and elaborated upon the text itself.

✓ (Frei) Boaventura, *Nossas Superstições*

From the mid of the XX century, this work reports and explains away some of the main superstitions existent in Brazil – and, previously, in Portugal – at that time. It is specially noteworthy for the fact it quotes a few superstitious prayers and mentions many different kinds of superstitions.

✓ Bob Lazar, *Dreamland*

I obtained this book in hopes of exploring Bob Lazar's connection with the Area 51 myths. Although he briefly talks about his work in the area, the book itself is extremely disappointing, perhaps not even a real autobiography at all, since it leaves way more questions unanswered than the ones it manages to reply to. In fact, readers get very little real information about the author, apart from his occasional – and usually vague – mentions to how great he is at so-and-so. Oddly, he provides more facts about his now-ex wife cheating on him than he does about his supposed work with aliens. And so, based on this work alone, I have to believe that the author's claims are all fake, since, otherwise, he would certainly be more open to present and discuss the rest of his life; this book

focuses a lot on the alien stuff, but truly makes it sound as if he didn't really have a real life before or after that, which is very sketchy!

✓ (Carlos Maria) Bobone, *Camões – Vida e Obra*

This book both disappointed and bored me. I was genuinely expecting to find a book on the life and works of the poet Camões, but instead this is an amalgam of words where said titular subjects are given a secondary or tertiary role. One chapter, for example, extensively discusses the origins of the sonnet... which would be perfectly fine, until you wake up from a kind of daze and realise you were supposedly reading a book about Camões' life, which is referenced just occasionally, and far between large sequences of secondary information.

✓ Bocage(?), *A Empreza Nocturna*

This erotic poem describes a sexual relationship the poetic subject had with a woman named "Nise". It has some beautiful moments, especially in terms of the ideas it suggests.

✓ Bocage, *A Manteigui*

An erotic poem about a woman who cheats on her husband with a well-endowed black man – and yeah, I can't believe I just typed down those words (they were written before the ones of the other poems surrounding this one in this listing). Anyway, the poem itself is notable for its extreme crudeness in the original language, containing many words that, to this day, would perhaps be considered very offensive to most readers.

✓ Bocage, *Á Morte de Uma Famosa Alcoviteira*

Clearly a satirical composition, in which the author praises praises the charms of a known procuress.

✓ Bocage(?), *Arte de Amar, ou Preceitos, e Regras Amatorias, Para Agradar às Damas*

A sort of short re-enactment of Ovid's "*Ars Amatoria*", in which the poet tries to give out a few rules of those wanting to be loved by ladies. The poem is crowded with mythological episodes from Classical Mythology, but not all of them seem as consistent to the original stories as one would expect.

✓ Bocage, *Cartas de Olinda a Alzira*



Some epistles between two female friends, one older than the other, in which the reader is led to an introduction to the arts of love and sex. Through said epistles, they go back and forth on the subject, until the youngest is finally made perfectly aware of the pleasures of sex and love.

✓ Bocage, *Diálogo Entre o Poeta e o Tejo*

A bit of a strange poem, a small dialogue between the poet and the Tagus River.

✓ Bocage, *Epístola a Marília*

A poem apparently praising the feeling of pleasure for pleasure itself, away from God or other considerations of that kind.

✓ Bocage, *Fragmento de Algeu, Poeta Grego*

A fake fragment of a fake poet from the Antiquity, this poem praises the feeling of pleasure.

✓ Bocage, *O Inferno do Ciúme*

A bit of a strange poem, apparently on jealousy.

✓ Bocage, *Ribeirada*

An erotic poem referencing a black man with a very large penis, seemingly written as a way to caution men that women don't usually like said "instruments" after a certain size.

✓ Boccaccio, *Concerning Famous Women*

A compilation of 106 biographies of significant women from the Antiquity and the author's own age. Many of them are mythological figures, such as Eve, Juno, Medea or Penthesilea. In some very limited cases, the author provides biographical information we cannot find anywhere else, but this seems to be more about him misunderstanding his sources than about having access to now-lost ones.

✓ Boccaccio, *Decameron*

Boccaccio's *Decameron* is certainly one of the pearls of world literature, and yet very few people tend to read it nowadays. Although its mythological content is minimal, it contains approximately 70 stories shared by several people over a period of a 10-day plague quarantine, some of which appear to have, at the very least, some inspiration from the Antiquity.

- ✓ (Bhikku) Bodhi, *In the Buddha's Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon*\*

This book presents the teachings of the Buddha via an anthology of quotes from several different works. Each section is presented with an introduction by the editor, which also adds a little bit more interest to it.

- ✓ (Rudolph J.) Bodmer, *The Book of Wonders*

A book which seemingly went through multiple editions in the early XX century, it basically presents readers with multiple curiosities about culture and physics, such as "Why do bulls hate red?" or "How big is the sun?", among many others. Some of said questions, and answers, are still interesting today, while others are clearly outdated based on what we found out later.

- ✓ (Sjoerd J. de) Boer, *The Hitler Myths: Exposing the Truth Behind the Stories about the Fuhrer*

In this work the author briefly presents the most famous myths about Hitler, and then attempts to find out the actual truth behind them. Overall, it is an interesting work which allows the reader to set apart fact from fiction regarding this historical figure.

- ✓ (Alex) Boese, *Elephants on Acid and Other Bizarre Experiments*

About strange scientific experiments, some of them are a bit fun, while others are completely horrifying.

- ✓ (Alex) Boese, *Hippo Eats Dwarf*

A work on some myths and hoaxes from our own day and age. Each chapter ends with some questions, and the reader is expected to figure out whether each of those stories is real or false.

- ✓ (Alex) Boese, *The Museum of Hoaxes: A Collection of Pranks, Stunts (...)*

The title says it fairly well for this book – it presents readers with a compilation of the world's most famous hoaxes, scams, etc., from the past all the way down to today's age. All the most known ones are presented here, in a very simple form.

- ✓ Boethius, *Against Eutyches and Nestorius*

A theological treatise in which the author defends the Catholic Faith against the ideas of the two aforementioned figures. Essentially, Nestorius believed

that “in Christ are two Natures and two Persons” and Eutyches “[in Christ there are] one Person and one Nature”, while the Catholics believed Christ had “two Natures but one Person”.

✓ Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*

The *Consolation of Philosophy* is not an easy read, but in the Middle Ages it was likely one of the most appreciated books. I myself tend to quote extensively from it, as it provides us very important personal lessons – the author once had all the best things, and as time went on his life started going downhill. Soon, he found himself in a prison cell under wrongful accusations. So, given his conditions, Boethius started asking a major question, one that all of us have almost certainly already asked ourselves – why do bad things happen to good people?

It's not an easily answered question, but Lady Philosophy appears to the author (in a literary and metaphorical sense, one would assume), and helps him find out the reply he was seeking, one that is equally useful for all of us in our daily lives. And, for that reason, this is quite a profitable work, provided you can truly understand its frequently not-so-simple

arguments.

✓ Boethius, *On the Catholic Faith*

A small sum-up of Catholic beliefs. Unexpectedly, it also contains a few brief references to non-catholic ideas, such as those of Arius and Nestorius.

✓ Boethius, *The Trinity*

A succinct and easy to read work on the fact that God, the Son and the Holy Spirit are not three individual gods, but a single one.

✓ (Matteo Maria) Boiardo, *Orlando in Love* \*

Describing the plot of this book is no easy task, since it contains many characters and parallel adventures that switch back and forth. Perhaps it is best to simply describe it as a chivalry romance with tons of magical happenings and unexpected twists, and in which some events and characters from classical myths make an appearance here and there. However, it is certainly best known as the (unfinished) work which inspired a sequel by Ludovico Ariosto, with his famous *Orlando Furioso* continuing the plot started here.

✓ (Ruskin) Bond, *Tales and Legends from India*

A fairly small collection of stories from India, essentially coming from the *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana*, *Jataka Tales*, and oral sources.

✓ (Jan) Bondeson, *A Cabinet of Medical Curiosities\**

Seemingly the author's most famous book, each of its chapters talks about a different case of medical curiosities, from spontaneous combustion up to the strange case of Julia Pastrana. Personally, I preferred some of his other books (see below), but this one is worthy of note if you are looking for strange medical cases.

✓ (Jan) Bondeson, *The Great Pretenders: The True Stories behind Famous Historical Mysteries*

A compilation of historical mysteries with the main and central subject of identity, i.e. who some people were and whether they were really who they claimed to be or not. It contains some interesting stories, such as the one of Kaspar Hauser, and some that, in my personal view, are not as interesting to today's readers, although the author does allude to many

other cases that he doesn't approach in as completely as in his main ones.

- ✓ (Jan) Bondeson, *The Two-Headed Boy and Other Medical Marvels*

A book about human medical marvels, ranging from the Middle Ages up to our own day. The author orders them by "type", then tells almost the complete lives of each person involved in those marvels, and finally compares and contrasts them with similar cases from our days, when existent. The topics covered are multiple births, people with multiple heads and bodies, women with faces of pig, really fat people, etc. Overall, the work is specially worth of notice for tracing the stories, as complete as possible, of all those people.

- ✓ (Larissa) Bonfante, *Etruscan Myths*

Although relatively short, this work is beautifully illustrated with a lot of photos and drawings from the myths seemingly known by the Etruscans.

Unfortunately, the text also reveals them to be pretty much representations of the original Greek Myths with the characters under different names; there is, here and there, some myths we may no longer be familiar



with, and the author openly admits we do not have any real information about them.

- ✓ (Campbell) Bonner, *A Dionysiac Miracle at Corinth*

This research paper explains how some features from a temple in Corinth were used to perform “miracles” there in the Antiquity.

- ✓ (Mark) Booth, *The Secret History of the World as laid down by secret societies* \*

In itself, the idea behind this book is certainly a good one, but once you start reading it – and specially if you have any knowledge of Ancient History or Mythology – it all quickly falls through. I really decided to give it a try, reading the initial chapters one by one, only to find out that they were replete with false and truly misleading information, which may induce readers to see very fake and false connections where, originally, there were none at all.

- ✓ (Laurent) Bordelon, *L'histoire des imaginations extravagantes de monsieur Oufle* \*

The XVIII century story of a man who read so many

books about the occult that he started thinking that it was all true. I didn't find the story very enjoyable by itself, but the second chapter contains a listing of the books the hero had in his library (useful to determine the most famous occult books in his time), and regarding each of the strange beliefs contained in the work the author added marginal notes explaining what literary sources they come from, which is as unusual as it is interesting.

- ✓ (Laurent) Bordelon, *Mital, ou Aventures incroyables* \*

The fictional story of a man who travelled all over the world and saw many different things. He reports on all the crazy things he supposedly saw around the globe, in sequences of fiction after fiction. However, like it seems to be common with this author, what's interesting about this work is the fact that he also tells us what specific literary sources of the past those fantasies came from.

- ✓ (Philippe) Borgeaud, *The Cult of Pan in Ancient Greece*

A very detailed work, alike of an everything you've

ever wanted to know about the god Pan. It contains many detailed chapters; if I had to point a problem about it, I'd possibly say that some notes are a wild goose chase, i.e. you go to check them and they quickly send you to another different note, instead of directly presenting the information you seek. Also, the author often refers to some vases, but doesn't show us to the reader, which is a bit of a disappointment, to hear about good arguments but being unable to see all the evidence first hand.

✓ (Jorge Luis) Borges, *The Book of Imaginary Beings*

A modern-day bestiary, containing not only succinct information on a few western and eastern creatures but also on completely fictional ones. Although, overall, it is an interesting work, it also provides very few information on less famous creatures that the reader may be interested in learning more about.

✓ (John) Bosco, *The Life of Young Dominic Savio*  
An essentially fist-hand account of Saint Dominic Savio's life, from the mid XIX century. It definitely shows a lot of devotion and inspiring belief, and one

certainly has to wonder why Salesian students are not required to read this.

- ✓ (R. B.) Bottigheimer, *As diferenças entre a mídia manuscrita e a impressa: formas dos (proto)contos de fadas Liombruno de Cirino d'Ancona e Lionbruno de Vindalino da Spira, dos anos de 1470*

Essentially a comparison of what are seemingly the two oldest versions of the *Lionbruno* fictional work from Italy. The author sums up the oldest one and later explains how the printed version contrasts with the original older one.

- ✓ (R. B.) Bottigheimer, *Fairy Tales – A New History*  
An interesting work which essentially defends the idea that most fairy tales do not have an oral source, but were actually born and then passed along from the work of authors such as Giambattista Basile. It's certainly a noteworthy possibility, even if it has some flaws here and there.

- ✓ (Thierry) Boucquey, *Encyclopedia of World Writers* \*

In at least three volumes, this work presents a very basic biography, and some of the works, of a significant number of authors, from the *Epic of Gilgamesh* to almost our own days age. The volumes do not present ALL authors and ALL works, unlike I expected, but at least references are provided when notable works exist in a translation to English, which is helpful if you want to be able to read them.

- (Frederik) Bouterwek, *History of Spanish and Portuguese Literature*
- ✓ (David) Bouvier, *Phinée ou le père aveugle et la marâtre aveuglante*

Some considerations on less-known versions of the myth of Phineus, in which that figure's guilt was more pronounced than in the more famous plots we now have.

- ✓ (John) Bowker, *Oxford Concise Dictionary of World Religions* \*

This work presents, in a succinct way, over 8000 topics related to religions from all over the world. However, no bibliography is provided (at least not in the online

edition I had access to), lots of articles are just too brief, and a few even contain inaccurate or somewhat misleading information (e.g. "Lilith", "Toledot Yeshu"). So, this source does provide you with tons of information, but at least some of it must be taken with a significant grain of salt.

- ✓ (James Cloyd) Bowman, *Pecos Bill: The Greatest Cowboy of All Time* \*

A very extended retelling of the adventures of Pecos Bill, a folklore hero from the US. It seems to be the biggest version of the whole story, but it is clearly not for a young audience, although it contains some occasional images.

- ✓ (C. M.) Bowra, *Orpheus and Eurydice*

This article essentially reviews the classical literary sources for the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, in order to conclude that there may have been, originally, a version where the hero actually manages to bring back his wife to the world of the living.

- ✓ (M.) Boyce, *A History of Zoroastrianism*

A very well researched work on the history of that

religion, in what is essentially a scholarly edition.

- ✓ (Benton L.) Bradberry, *The Myth of German Villainy*

A forbidden book in some markets, it presents the idea that some aspects of the two World Wars were not accurately presented to the audience in most literary sources. Although I am unable to verify how accurate all the ideas presented here are, I verified some of them and they make perfect sense, even allowing the reader to understand some aspects of the second world war that are otherwise very difficult to comprehend.

- ✓ (Teófilo) Braga, *Cancioneiro Popular* \*

A collection of popular songs and proverbs from Portugal, compiled in the middle of the XIX century. Although they are interesting, often there doesn't seem to be any common thread uniting them, their topic of their order. Sometimes, the author alludes to versions from specific locations, but then doesn't follow through with similar songs from other different places, which is also kind of disappointing.

- ✓ (Teófilo) Braga, *Contos Tradicionais do Povo Português* \*

A collection of Portuguese tales compiled at the end of the XIX century, but with sources that, in some cases, even dated back to 300 years before. Overall, they tend to be unknown in our day and age, even by natives of Portugal.

- ✓ (Teófilo) Braga, *Formação da Lenda do Fausto*  
Published in the portuguese magazine *O Positivismo*, this is a research article on many aspects regarding the origin of the Faust legend. The author talks about identifications behind the potentially historical hero, but also behind the origin of specific elements of its story. Overall, he seems to sum-up the information available in a good way.

- ✓ (Teófilo) Braga, *As Lendas Christãs*

A work on the formation and evolution of christian legends, both in the Antiquity and in the Middle Ages. Overall the author makes some great points, that should be conceded, but sometimes he also presents a needless display of his personal knowledge, which may be a bit confusing, in the sense that some of the topics



he talks about are, eventually, quite far away from his main ones.

- ✓ (Teófilo) Braga, *O Povo Portuguez nos seus Costumes, Crenças e Tradições*

Quite an interesting three volume work, about the traditions and beliefs of the Portuguese people at the end of the XIX century. It features almost endless information on those topics and ones related to them, exploring lots and lots of cultural information that seems to have been lost in the last 100 years, and constantly provides his sources of information, allowing readers for further exploration of the topics on their own.

- ✓ (Louis) Braille, *Procedure for Writing Words, Music, and Plainsong in Dots*

A very simple book in which Braille, by adapting a previous system, creates a simplified one that would allow blind people to “read” documents of many different types.

- ✓ Bram Stoker, *Famous Impostors* \*

The title is here perhaps a bit misleading, since this is

not just a book about impostors, but one about all kinds of bamboozles and hoaxes, from simple women disguising themselves as males up to royal impersonators. Overall, it focuses on cases from the United Kingdom, but there are also some famous ones from other countries.

- ✓ (Alfredo de Freitas) Branco, *Algumas Lendas e Alguns Monumentos do Archipelago da Madeira*

A short work containing some legends from the island of Madeira compiled in the beginning of the XX century. Despite not containing many legends, it is specially important because its author was born there and, as such, heard many of these legends when he was younger, and reports on them based on the direct knowledge he had of them.

- ✓ (Jacyntho Lins) Brandão, *Epopeia de Gilgamesh: Ele que o abismo viu*

This is a good scholarly edition of the *Epic of Gilgamesh* in Portuguese, complete with an introduction and extensive notes explaining all the noteworthy sections of the text.

✓ (Luís Pereira) Brandão, *Elegíada* \*

A XVI century epic poem about the battles, and eventual death, of the portuguese king Sebastian. Although, in itself, the poem is not very good or interesting, the author seemingly saw the final battle with his own eyes, making his work a valuable source for what happened at the time. Plus, this is likely the only epic poem in which the hero literally dies while failing to accomplish his goals.

✓ (Zephyrino N. G.) Brandão, *Monumentos e Lendas de Santarém* \*

This work definitely talks about the monuments of the city of Santarém, in Portugal, but I always felt it does it in a way that ends up being too tiring for today's readers. As for the legends, the author does have a small chapter about them, with just a very small number of stories, almost near the end.

✓ (Simon) Braund, *The Greatest Movies You'll Never See* \*

About significant movies which were never made, and the reasons behind that. Although it contains more movies than another similar work, *The Greatest Movies*

*Never Made?*, I definitely enjoyed that one a lot more.

- (Ernest) Brehaut, *An encyclopedist of the dark ages: Isidore of Seville*
  
- ✓ (J. N.) Bremmer, *Roman Myth and Mythography*  
A small book, perhaps among the most interesting ones I've read, which explore the topic focusing exclusively on Rome's own native myths.
  
- ✓ (David) Breslove, *How Old Were Achilles and Neoptolemus?*  
A very short article which, based on extant literary evidence, attempts to find the age of Achilles and Neoptolemus during the Trojan War.
  
- ✓ (Keagan) Brewer, *Prester John: The Legend and its Sources*  
An introduction to the Prester John legend, complete with translations of primary sources. They do not attest all the references to the legend and its evolution, but they do contain very significant portions of the most significant authors who wrote about it.

- ✓ Brethren of Purity, *Encyclopedia of the Brethren of Purity - Epistle 22 - The Case of the Animals versus Man Before the King of the Jinn*

A philosophical epistle, from the Middle Ages, in which Men and Animals debate if the latter are slaves to the former or not. It is a pleasing fable.

- ✓ (Emma Louise) Bridge, *Autism, Anxiety and Me*  
A book by a young lady with autism, sort of a personal diary, with some commentary by her mother after each entry. Although it seems like a very interesting creation, I also felt that it should feature a lot more entries from the diary itself, as readers would definitely profit from learning more about her personal vision of the world.

- ✓ Britney Spears, *The Woman in Me*  
I came across this book by accident, and out of pure curiosity decided to read it. Although it contains some interesting pieces of information about the author, I felt that after her father gained control of her life and career, the story became a lot less interesting and poorly detailed, when readers could certainly learn a lot if she had presented more of herself during that

space of time.

✓ (Saint) Bridget of Sweden, *Revelations* \*

Eight books of revelations are attributed to this saint of the XIV century, but their content varies widely. Some are small stories, others present teachings from Christ or the Virgin, there are some chapters directly related to Bridget's own historial and cultural context, etc.

Unlike one could expect, given the name, they are not all about the end of times, or similar subjects.

✓ (Sebastian) Brock, *The Syriac Version of the Pseudo-Nonnos Mythological Scholia*

An edition of the work mentioned in its title, being specially worthy of notice that it not only contains an extended introduction to the whole subject, but also the original works in Greek and Syriac, complemented with an English translation of those.

✓ (Fawn M.) Brodie, *No Man Knows My History*

Based on original sources from his time, this is a biography of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism. The author is hardly unbiased, but she provides plenty of reliable information, supported by the textual

sources she quotes from. The book also contains some appendices, the most notable of which possibly regards the lives of his many wives.

- ✓ (Edward) Brooke-Hitching, *The Most Interesting Book in the World: A Miscellany of Things Too Strange to Be True, Yet Somehow Are*

A book filled with short curiosities. Unfortunately, the author does not provide his sources, and I noticed multiple cases in which the information he provides is either incomplete or incorrect. He does provide images for a significant number of his entries, though.

- ✓ (Edward) Brooke-Hitching, *The Phantom Atlas: The Greatest Myths, Lies and Blunders on Maps*

A truly unexpected book, focusing on the islands that people once believed to exist or have existed, and were represented in maps, from Atlantis to O Brazil, among many others. The author provides dozens, if not hundreds, of maps to illustrate his points, which is very interesting. In addition, when it comes down to myths and legends, he also provides two noteworthy chapters, on legendary beasts shown in maps, and unusual species of human-like beings presented in the

Nuremberg Chronicle, adding even further interest to his work. I genuinely enjoyed this book, and read every single one of its pages.

- ✓ (Peter) Brown, *The Cult of the Saints – Its Rise and Function in Latin Christianity*

A collection of lectures on the topic stated in the title itself. The author does a good job in stating his considerations in a very introductory way, presenting the rise and function of the cult of the saints in an easy to understand way.

- ✓ (Truesdell S.) Brown, *Euhemerus and the Historians*

This research paper includes a basic summary of Euhemerus' famous historical work, based on the extant fragments.

- ✓ (R. W.) Browne, *A History of Roman Classical Literature* \*

This work contains the essential basics of Latin Literature. It is written on a simple way, making it a good introduction to the subject.



- ✓ (Thomas) Browne, *Musaeum Clausum*

A brief description of some books and artworks supposedly owned by a friend of the author. They are all a joke, essentially presenting the reader with a lot of things which, if ever existed, are now utterly impossible to find.

- ✓ (Jan Harold) Brunvand, *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia* \*

Containing a lot of information on American Folklore, including bibliographical references for each entry. However, it is a bit odd when it comes down to myths and legends – although their background is explained, the content of the actual plot is sometimes omitted or not told very well, e.g. Paul Bunyan's case.

- ✓ (Jan Harold) Brunvand, *Encyclopedia of Urban Legends: Updated and Expanded Edition* \*

Although stated to be an encyclopedia in the title, this is more of a compilation of urban legends and related topics. However, each entry is very well explained and complete, even containing additional bibliography for those who want to learn more about it, and essentially ensuring that you can read through this whole book

without getting tired of all the entries, as you learn more and more about the extent of the topic.

- ✓ (Jan Harold) Brunvand, *The Truth Never Stands in the Way of a Good Story* \*

This one is a collection of researches on some of the urban myths the author already presented in his previous books. Each chapter is pretty much self-contained, presenting the plot and further researching into it with a similar method.

- ✓ (Jan Harold) Brunvand, *The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends and Their Meanings* \*

In this book you are presented multiple urban legends, mostly from North America, and their multiple versions are explored a bit. And this may seem like a good idea, naturally, but the author briefly presents each legend and then quotes multiple additional versions of it in full, which turns boring very quickly.

- ✓ (E. A. Wallis) Budge, *Baralam and Yewasef: The Ethiopic Version of a Christianized Recension of the Buddhist Legend of the Buddha and the Bodhisattva* \*

An introduction to the famous medieval legend of Barlaam and Josaphat, discussing its sources and some of the versions which have reached us. This work also contains a translation of a specific version, some engravings related to the whole story, and even some additional documents about the supposed introduction of Christianity in India by Saint Thomas.

- ✓ (E. A. Wallis) Budge, *The Greenfield Papyrus in the British Museum* \*

This work presents the aforementioned “Greenfield Papyrus”, showing readers all the pages in what seems to be a facsimile, and further complemented with extensive introductions, explanations, and a translation of the whole thing. It has, however, a significant problem – instead of presenting the images and the text side-by-side, they’re in entirely different parts of the book, meaning you have to go back and forth multiple times to properly enjoy this work.

- ✓ (Ana Isabel Carvalhão) Buescu, *O Milagre de Ourique e a História de Portugal de Alexandre Herculano: Uma Polémica Oitocentista* \*

Although this book may also be interesting for the

main subject at hand, I found especially notable given the fact it presents a summary, and a reference to the main and oldest sources, of the "Miracle of Ourique", a seemingly legendary episode from Portugal's history.

✓ (J.) Burgess, *The Death and Afterlife of Achilles*  
A book which presents almost complete information on the subject announced on its title. It evaluates extensive archaeological, literary and iconographical sources to provide the reader with the best extant information on both the death and afterlife fate of this famous hero.

✓ (John William) Burgon, *Causes of the Corruption of the Traditional Text of the Holy Gospels*  
On how the original text of the gospels was corrupted across time, and the reasons behind those changes. Unfortunately the author does not provide an exhaustive listing of all those changes, which I would have loved reading, but despite that potential flaw he does a pretty good job at explaining why each type of alteration occurred.

✓ (W.) Burlette Carter, *Sexism in the 'Bathroom*

*Debates': How Bathrooms Really Became Separated By Sex*

Included in the context of some silly transphilic debates taking place in the US, this paper refutes some others on the subject and tries to show why bathrooms became separated in two, one for women and another for men. The author provides extensive examples, both from the cultural context of Europe and the US.

- (Frances Hodgson) Burnett, *The Secret Garden*\*
- ✓ (William E.) Burns, *Witch Hunts in Europe and America: An Encyclopedia* \*

A compilation of entries on some cases and subjects related to medieval and modern witchcraft in Europe and America. Although you can learn from it about some significant subjects and figures, each entry complemented with some basic bibliography, I also felt that this lacks a lot of significant figures and topics, including, most ironically, the exact same one I was attempting to learn more about at that time.

- ✓ (Augusten) Burroughs, *Running With Scissors: A*

*Memoir*

I heard about this one book from a book by the author's brother, and overall it shows how crazy people's lives sometimes can be. It is certainly not a life-changing book, but in a sense it can put problems in perspective.

✓ (Edgar Rice) Burroughs, *Tarzan of the Apes*  
 The author's first book about Tarzan, which was then followed by many others. Overall, it is a novel characteristic of its period in time, with some elements that can even be considered "racist" today, but its main focus is the hero's life in the jungle, with occasional references to what one can call "civilized" life. The ending is quite disappointing, unless you want to consider it as an evident sequel bait.

✓ (Alban) Butler, *Lives of the Saints, With Reflections for Every Day of the Year* \*

There is a huge number of editions of this work, some with more content and some with less. The one I obtained was published in 1894 by Benziger Brothers, and essentially presents one saint for each day of the year, whose life is briefly summed up, and then

complemented with equally brief meditations for each of them.

✓ (Carla) Butwin, *If Animals Could Talk*

Illustrated as a children's book, but definitely not written with them as the intended audience, this book presents animals and then features an adult pun associated with each of them. It deserved to be noted here due to the fact it is referenced in many internet memes.

✓ (Christopher) Byrne, *Toy Time!*

This is a book about famous toys of the XX century, which the author briefly presents and then reveals what happened to each one. He also presents pictures of each one, along with a very small number of curiosities about them.

✓ (Thomas) Byrnes, *Professional Criminals of America* \*

Published in 1886 by an inspector from New York City, this book is notable for presenting the photos of many criminals captured at the time, along with their short biography and the history of their crimes. This would

be unthinkable today, for privacy reasons, but to know more about each of those criminals definitely makes for a very unexpected read, even if most people may not be interested in it any more.

✓ (Randall L.) Bytwerk, *The Argument for Genocide in Nazi Propaganda*

An article evaluating the arguments for Genocide among the Nazis, with special attention being paid to Kaufman's *Germany Must Perish!* It is quite informative on how the whole situation evolved and led to the extensive killing of Jews.



## 4- Section C

- ✓ (John T.) Cacioppo, *Loneliness: Human Nature and the Need for Social Connection*

A work on the biological, cultural and philosophical implications of loneliness. It raises some significant points, although it does not fully explain how some people, such as monks, seem to feel completely okay with it.

- ✓ Caedmon, *Hymn*

A very short hymn praising God, by the earliest poet from England whose name reached us. It is intriguing due to the fact that it was allegedly revealed to the author in a dream, at a time in which he did not know how to compose its content yet.

- (Earle) Cairns, *Christianity Through the Centuries* \*

- ✓ Caius (Presbyter of Rome), *Fragments*

There is nothing mythologically significant in these fragments, but the author seems to have written a

work titled *The Labyrinth*, which sounds deeply intriguing, but regrettably none of its fragments reached us. The *Muratorian fragment*, an early canon of the Christian literature which would eventually constitute the New Testament, is also attributed to him.

- ✓ (Daniela Buono) Calainho, *Jambacousses e Gangazambes: Feiticeiros Negros em Portugal*

A research paper on the magical practices of the black slaves in Portugal, more or less around the XV to the XVIII centuries. It quotes and alludes to many records from the local Inquisition, providing plenty of room for further exploration.

- ✓ Calamity Jane, *Life and Adventures of Calamity Jane by Herself*

A short work, but worthy of note due to the fact this may be one of the few famous frontierswomen who wrote her own story.

- ✓ (Frank) Callcott, *The Supernatural in Early Spanish Literature: Studied in the Works of the Court of Alfonso X, El Sabio*

Many literary works were produced in the time of Afonso X of Spain, and what this book presents is a succinct compilation of references to the supernatural in most – but, unfortunately, not all – of the works attributed to that king's influence, the most famous of which is probably the *Cantigas de Santa Maria*.

✓ Callimachus, *Epigrams*

A collection of 64 epigrams composed by this author, seemingly and in general for the graves of the dead people. Some of them have small mythological allusions here and there, but nothing too significant.

✓ Callimachus, Fragments \*

Fragments of Callimachus' other works have reached us. He appears to have composed at least one epic poem on a mythological subject, but aetiological myths and legends were definitely a part of his repertoire.

✓ Callimachus, *Hymns*

Six hymns by this author appear to have survived to our time, on the topics of Zeus, Apollo, Artemis, (the island) Delos, the Bath of Pallas and Demeter. In general, they present several mythological allusions

relevant to each topic, but they also retell us some lesser known myths.

✓ (Pseudo-)Callisthenes, *Alexander Romance* (?)  
 Falsely attributed to Callisthenes and available in many versions with some slight changes, this presents a largely fictional account of Alexander the Great's life and adventures. It can be read just as if you had picked it up from a local book store "romance" shelf; it mixes Mythology, History and many other fictional elements, producing what is perhaps one of the Antiquity's most amusing novels.

✓ (Gerta) Calmann, *The Picture of Nobody: An Iconographical Study*

This research paper shows how the metaphorical "Nobody" was represented in the Middle Age and beyond. It does contain some images, but also presents their historical context.

✓ (Antoine Augustin) Calmet, *Traité sur les apparitions des esprits et sur les vampires ou les revenans de Hongrie, de Moravie, etc.* \*

Written in the XVIII century, this work – which also

exists in an English translation – is a dissertation on magic, possession, spirits and returns from the grave. Although the author quotes extensively from authorities from the Antiquity, this work's most interesting asset is perhaps the fact it also alludes and retells some cases from the author's own day and age.

✓ Calpurnius Siculus, *Eclogues* \*

A set of seven eclogues, which have all the typical elements of the genre. There are some mythological references here and there, but nothing too worthy of special note.

✓ (John) Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Although at the time of the writing of these lines I could remember very little about it, I did still recall that it contained some very interesting theological points.

✓ (John) Calvin, *Treatise on Relics*

Quite an amusing work, in which the author openly displays the absurdity of relics that were worshipped in many churches of his time. Simply put, he goes through many religious figures – Christ, Mary, the

apostles, some saints, etc. – and tells us which relics he knows associated with them, adding to it the often-many places where they could be found, in order to show readers that, evidently, they cannot all be true at the same time.

✓ (Italo) Calvino, *Italian Folktales* \*

A compilation of 200 folktales from all over Italy, not collected personally by Italo Calvino but compiled from written sources which were available to him, and which he details in the introduction. Overall, these feature what you'd usually expect to find in folktales, but it is certainly pleasing to see them all immortalized in a written form.

✓ (Italo) Calvino, *Why Read the Classics?*

A collection of modern essays on classical literature, in which the author attempted to synthesize what's most noteworthy about some examples of the world's most famous works, i.e. not just works from the Antiquity. When it comes down specifically to Greek and Latin works, he mentions the *Odyssey*, Xenophon's *Anabasis*, Ovid, and Pliny the Elder. Although at times he seems to hold Dante in high regard, he never talks

specifically about the *Commedia*, perhaps due to the fact that his original Italian readers would already be well familiarized with such work.

- ✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Antologia do Folclore Brasileiro* \*

Through two volumes, this author presents many others and their respective works, in all of which the main topic is the folklore of Brazil. In each individual entry, Câmara Cascudo briefly introduces the author, sometimes also the work itself, and then quotes part of the work, which may range from just a few sentences up to many pages. Overall, this seems like quite a noteworthy work for anyone who is interested in studying the beliefs, myths and legends of Brazil, as it provides plenty of basic material for additional exploration.

- ✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Coisas que o Povo Diz* \*

A small collection of 60 proverbs from Brazil, which the author tries to explain. Strangely, sometimes he openly admits he does not know the explanation behind some of them.

- ✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Contos Tradicionais do Brasil* \*

A compilation of traditional stories from Brazil, naturally in Portuguese. Each story is complemented with some brief notes, essentially explaining or theorizing their origin.

- ✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Dicionário do Folclore Brasileiro* \*

A dictionary of brazilian folklore from the mid-XX century. Although it features plenty of interesting information on its many articles, it has what can be considered a minor flaw – sometimes the author seems to leave aside information that readers could be very interested in, e.g. why does the Headless Mule have no head?

- ✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Geografia dos Mitos Brasileiros* \*

On myths from Brazil, specially their origin and how they (sometimes) have different versions all over their country. Although it has some interesting pieces of information here and there, unfortunately the degree



of development of the subject tends to vary widely; concerning some creatures the author wrote many pages, while others, likely as significant, are spoken about for just a very small number of pages.

✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Lendas Brasileiras*\*  
A collection of a few legends from Brazil, but what makes it noteworthy is the fact that, overall, these are not the same usual stories that tend to appear in many examples of the genre, but more generally obscure ones.

✓ (Luís da) Câmara Cascudo, *Superstição no Brasil*\*

In the edition I had access to, from 2015, this work features a compilation of longer essays, on various topics, and some short ones more directly connected with superstitions related to Brazil. Although the author mentions famous ideas which are retained in Brazilian (and Portuguese) culture to this day, he does not seem to treat them in a very consistent way, and if you don't know much about them yet, chances are that you'll not learn about their basic aspects here either. Instead, this work focuses more on some

almost informal considerations regarding multiple superstitions.

- ✓ (Alan) Cameron, *Greek Mythography in the Roman World*

On the influence of Greek scholarship in the Roman world, containing extensive information on how those intertextualities worked and were reused in Latin tradition and works.

- ✓ (Alan) Cameron, *The Last Pagans of Rome*  
Regarding the last significant authors and pagan works from the Roman Empire.

- ✓ (Averil) Cameron, *Byzantine Christianity: A very brief history* \*

The title says it best, this is a very succinct history of the rise and evolution of Byzantine Christianity, written in a very simple way, and likely fit for those who know nothing about the subject yet.

- ✓ Camilo Castelo Branco, *O Marquez de Torres-Novas*

A XIX century tragedy on the Portuguese story of

Guiomar Coutinho (which took place in the XVI century), which seems to have become legendary across time.

✓ (Pero Vaz de) Caminha, *Carta*

Written in the XV century, this letter reports on the finding of Brazil through the words of a man who accompanied Pedro Álvares Cabral in its discovery. It contains a few interesting tidbits of information, in particular regarding the beliefs and behaviour of the natives.

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Auto do Filodemo*

The topic of this play seems to be entirely imagined by the author. It is similar to a small romance, but it doesn't appear to be based in any previously existing myth or legend.

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Auto dos Anfitriões*

Another play, this one is based on Plautus' *Amphitryon*, which narrates the mythical love and meeting of Zeus with Alcmena, Amphitryon's wife, during which Heracles is conceived. Overall, the play and its plot is very similar to the greek author's.

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Auto El-rei Seleuco*

Yet another play, this one is short and based on the story of the passion of Seleucus' son for his own stepmother.

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Disparates de Índia*

This seems like a critic to the society of the poet's own time, in which he also alludes to several proverbs which were, apparently, already popular back in his day.

• (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Letters*

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Lyric Poems*

Many of Camões' poems contain mythological subjects, as was common back in his day. Although sometimes he does retell complete myths, more often he simply alludes to mythological figures and episodes.

✓ (Luís Vaz de) Camões, *Os Lusíadas*

Certainly Portugal's most famous epic poem, essentially it narrates the glory of the Portuguese people and of their maritime discoveries. It intertwines

fact with fiction, even famously using the ancient gods as metaphorical characters, as they variously support (or hinder) the attempts of reaching India by sea. An additional note of some interest – even when studied in school, the final canto is seldom read by students, likely because it contains some mystical references and prophecies which they could have some trouble fully understanding.

- ✓ (Luís Vaz de Camões(?), *Os Lusíadas – Canto Décimo Primeiro [fragmento final inédito]*)

I randomly came across this short work, published in 1937, which supposedly contains some fragments from an extra sequence of Camões' epic. The preface claims this is from a passage that the poet lost when he suffered a shipwreck, and that it was very damaged except for a few verses, but... how was it even retrieved? I could not find that out, and oddly the verses appear to be presented nowhere else.

- ✓ (Priscila de Oliveira) Campanholo, *Os Comentários de Sérvio Honorato ao Canto VI da Eneida*

This master thesis in Portuguese presents a partial

translation of Servius' commentary on the *Aeneid*. Although, as the title refers, it only covers book VI, it does contain extremely valuable information on that sequence of Virgil's epic, which, as far as I know, isn't available in any other complete translations yet.

- ✓ (Robert Ford) Campany, *A Garden of Marvels: Tales of Wonder from Early Medieval China* \*

A compilation of 225 tales with fantastic elements coming from medieval China. The compiler introduces the whole subject fairly well and also states the provenance of each individual tale.

- ✓ (Joseph) Campbell, *The Hero of a Thousand Faces*

This book is most famous for having inspired at least the initial "Star Wars" movies. It presents the idea that most successful stories have a set of guidelines to be followed, usually called "The Hero's Journey", which already appeared in old mythologies and continue to be followed in fiction of our own day and age. One has to wonder if those stories were successful because they used those guidelines, or if those guidelines became popular as they were successfully used across

time.

- (Joseph) Campbell, *The Masks of God – Primitive Mythology*
- (Joseph) Campbell, *The Power of Myth*

✓ (Richard) Campbell, *Dark Psychology*

A work on how to manipulate others, and avoid being manipulated by them. It is overly simplistic, and it promises way more than it delivers.

✓ (Alfredo) Campos, *Historia Pitoresca - Palavras e Frases Celebres*

Only available in Portuguese, this work succinctly tells the backstory of some famous adages, and how they are used. Most of the 89 entries seem to come from the times of the Antiquity, but there are also many recent ones here.

✓ (Anthony John) Campos, *Mexican Folk Tales*

A small collection of popular tales from Mexico, which the author and compiler heard from his grandmother. They have all the elements typical in the genre.

- (Albert) Camus, *The Stranger*

- ✓ Cao Xueqin, *Dream of the Red Chamber* \*

One of the biggest masterpieces of Chinese literature, but also one which would be incredibly hard to sum-up in just a few lines. Maybe it is best to simply point out that it contains some fantastic elements, not as part of its main plot but, more often than not, as side elements ingrained in the culture of China.

- ✓ (Andreas) Capellanus, *De Amore* \*

Likely inspired by the love works of Ovid, this author here presents a potentially satirical work on the subject of love, essentially explaining how people – at the time – “should” behave towards one another in matters of the heart.

- ✓ (John) Capouya, *Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad-Boy Wrestler Who Created American Pop Culture*

Seemingly the first published biography of the wrestler Gorgeous George, the work in itself is interesting, but a reader is certainly left wondering how much of the information presented here was obtained. Nonetheless,



I found what I sought in this work, a noteworthy history of this man's life, work, and influence in pop culture.

- ✓ Captain Charles Johnson, *A General History of the Pyrates* \*

Published in 1724, this book is apparently the most famous one on the biographies of contemporary pirates. Through its two volumes, it presents the lives of many significant pirates, and it appears to have been the most important source for how we think of pirates today, including the acts of the most famous figures of that age.

- ✓ (Luís) Cardim, *Estudos da Literatura e da Linguística* \*

A collection of some articles on subjects related to literature, I read two, one on the obscure medieval work named "*Syr Torrent of Portyngale*" (basically discussing the places mentioned in the plot, but not recapping it), and one on supposedly new documents related to the "*Lettres Portugaises*".

- (Ana Paula Vazquez) Cardoso, *Intervir no*

*Sagrado: Reflexão e Análise Crítica ao Santuário da Peninha*

✓ (Guilherme) Cardoso, *Crónicas de Cascais*

Likely one of the most interesting books I have read in recent years, it presents a lot of information regarding the archaeology and traditions local to Cascais, in Portugal. Each chapter also features many photos and drawings appropriate to the subjects being discussed. And, perhaps most important of all, it did answer many questions I had about local culture.

✓ (Guilherme) Cardoso, *Registo Fotográfico da Freguesia de São Domingos de Rana e Alguns Apontamentos Histórico-Administrativos*

Seemingly the first of a collection of three, this presents the area of São Domingos de Rana, in Portugal, as it used to be, and provides some historical information on its different areas. It also contains which is likely the best part of the collection, a ton of old photos from the places, some of which may have disappeared by now.

✓ (Guilherme) Cardoso, *Registo Fotográfico de*

*Alcabideche e Alguns Apontamentos Histórico-Administrativos*

Another volume, similar to the previous one, just based on a different place. As the former, it also mixes old photos with some historical information.

- ✓ (Guilherme) Cardoso, *Registo Fotográfico de Carcavelos e Alguns Apontamentos Histórico-Administrativos*

A third work similar to the previous two, just focusing on yet another different area. Personally, I felt it is the least interesting of the three, perhaps because this area is newer than the others.

- ✓ (Jorge) Cardoso, *Agiológio Lusitano* \*

Essentially an encyclopedia of saints from Portugal, or religious figures somehow connected with the same country. The entries are ordered by the day in which they are worshipped, and each of them contains some brief, yet significant, information on the figure.

Regrettably, the work is incomplete, having taken almost 90 years to reach the four current tomes, the last of which is by António Caetano de Sousa, and ends with the last day of August.

- ✓ (Vera) Cardoso, *Cascais Mágico: Lendas, Mitos e Outras Histórias*

This book contains some myths and legends from Cascais (in Portugal), to which was added a very poor fictional framework. The retelling it provides is equally flawed, with each story typically being less than one page long. In essence, the only good thing about this book is the fact it contains local content difficult to find elsewhere.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *As Capellas Imperfeitas e a Lenda das Devisas Gregas*

Regarding two mysterious words engraved in the so-called "imperfect chapels" from the Portuguese Monastery of Batalha. The author proposes a suggestion for its reading, and tells a short legend associated with it.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *Cem Melhores Poesias (Líricas) da Língua Portuguesa*

A selection of the one hundred best poems written in Portuguese, selected by this notable researcher and scholar. Some are short, others are long, a few are still

quite known today – like the *Nau Catrineta* – but, personally, I felt that she focused more on recent authors and compositions than she did in older ones, and the sections on Camões are simply way too long.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *Mil Provérbios Portugueses*

A rather simple book, after a brief introduction the author presents a little bit over 1000 proverbs from Portugal she collected from the oldest sources available to her.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *Notas Sobre a Canção Perdida 'Este Es Calbi Orabi'*

A short paper on what these words, of now-unknown meaning, may have originally meant. The author does not offer a decisive solution, but presents a theory she considers significant about it.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *Pedro, Inês e a Fonte dos Amores*

This research paper contains multiple legendary and historical references to the Portuguese legend of Pedro and Inês de Castro.

- ✓ Carolina Michaelis (de Vasconcellos), *Romances Velhos em Portugal* \*

An extensive book on how “old romances” were adapted and reused in the literature of Portugal. I was hoping to learn more about each old romance here, perhaps with a short introduction, but there’s none, and instead the author simply refers each romance (or overall subject), along with individual verses or sequences that may have come from them. So, unless you already know a lot about the whole subject, you’ll still be left in the dark after reading this.

- (J. Estlin) Carpenter, *Comparative Religion*
- ✓ (Victor M. Sánchez) Carrasco, *Portuguese eyewitness accounts of the great space weather event of 1582*

This brief article essentially preserves two small accounts of an astrological event, seemingly both recorded in the city of Lisbon. This appears to be important because said auroras aren’t generally seen in the lands of Portugal.

- ✓ (Richard) Carrier, *On the Historicity of Jesus: Why We Might Have Reason for Doubt*

A book on whether Jesus was an historic or merely legendary figure. Although in general the author does a good job effectively arguing for the second case, some of his later chapters, particularly on evidence coming from the biblical and clementine epistles, feature lots of inferences which, in my personal opinion, appear to be more wishful thinking, and clearly debatable, than real and rock-solid evidence for his own case.

- ✓ (Robert Todd) Carroll, *The Skeptic's Dictionary* \*

Although I heard this was also published as a book, what I obtained was a copy of many blog posts by the same author. They basically sum up many topics regarding Mysticism et al. in very simple ways. Although I did not always agree with the author, this is definitely an informative work.

- (Paul) Carus, *History of the Devil*

- ✓ (Clara Afonso de Azevedo de) Carvalho, *Bruxas da Serra – Estudo numa comunidade sertã*

As unique as it is interesting, this work preserves the real stories and beliefs of witchcraft from a small village from Portugal in the 1980s. It contains a lot of information which is not usually available, such as the reasons why people contacted those “witches”, what was suggested to each of them, a limited part of the backstory of those people, etc. In fact, I must admit I was really surprised with how interesting this one bachelor thesis is.

- ✓ (Francisco Freire de) Carvalho, *Fábulas Orientaes de Saadi* \*

A small compilation of stories, translated to Portuguese from the French, and seemingly originating from the works of Saadi Shirazi. Most of them are fairly short, essentially presenting Muslim plots and some kind of lesson one can infer from each story, which may have led to their designation of “fables” in the translated edition.

- ✓ (Miguel) Carvalho Abrantes, *Themes of the Trojan Cycle: Contribution to the Study of the Greek Mythological Tradition*

A few months after having written this thesis I went



back and re-read it. Although there are now some changes I'd have done if I could, ultimately it still fills its original purpose, the one of complementing the Homeric Poems with a full report of all the events which took place between them. Only time will tell if readers find this work equally pleasing.

- ✓ (João Jorge de) Carvalho, *Gaticanea, ou, Cruelissima guerra entre os cães, e os gatos, decidida em huma sanguinolenta batalha na grande praça da real villa de Mafra*

Likely one of the most amusing epic poems I ever had access to, this is the story of a massive battle between cats and dogs in the portuguese village of Mafra. It is a very funny adventure, which also satirizes many epic conventions, but it only existed in the original XVIII century edition, in Portuguese, until I myself decided to translate it to English as *The War of Cats and Dogs*.

- (José Adriano de F.) Carvalho, *Um profeta de corte na Corte: o caso (1562-1576) de Simão Gomes, o 'Sapateiro Santo' (1516-1576)*
- ✓ (Nilce Camila de) Carvalho, *O Assassino do*

*Aqueduto e a Sua Representação na Literatura Popular Portuguesa*

A research paper which mentions the popular works once written about Diogo Alves, aka. the assassin of the aqueduct of Lisbon. Other than referring those works, this seemed like a very limited paper, since it doesn't even tell the reader the killer's complete story.

✓ *Cassiodorus, Institutions of Divine and Secular Learning*

This work can be split into two sections. In the first book, the author essentially goes through the biblical canon and tells readers what are the best commentaries available for each individual text. The second focuses on the Seven Liberal Arts, which the author succinctly describes one by one. In both cases, Cassiodorus quotes and alludes to many different authors and works, some of them still available today (potentially even due to Cassiodorus' own efforts on his Vivarium "monastery school"), while others are now essentially lost.

✓ *Cassiodorus, On the Soul*

Here, the author attempts to answer some questions

regarding the soul. Two of its sequences, on how to recognise bad (and good) men, are particularly intriguing.

- ✓ (David) Castleton, *Church Curiosities: Strange Objects and Bizarre Legends*

The title says pretty well what this book is all about, but it also deserves to be noted that it focuses only on England. It has plenty of photos in it, but they seem to be a little bit inconsistent, i.e. sometimes the author mentions a very interesting thing and also shows a photo of it, but occasionally he doesn't.

- ✓ (Augusto Mendes Simões de) Castro, *O Brasão de Coimbra*

A small work presenting what others said about the coat of arms of the city of Coimbra, in Portugal. It presents multiple mythological narratives and legends to explain it.

- ✓ (Gabriel Pereira de) Castro, *Ulysses, ou Lisboa Edificada* \*

From the early XVII century, this epic poem starts by retelling a small part of the homeric *Odyssey*, and then

adds a significantly new story in which Odysseus/Ulysses ends up founding the city of Lisbon. Overall it is not a very interesting work, since the mythological background is often misused, and the plot seemed to be quite basic and, in some ways, similar to the *Aeneid*'s.

✓ ([Dom] João de) Castro, *Cartas* \*

Some epistles written in the first half of the XVI century. One of them, where the author offers his beard in exchange for a loan to repair the fortress of Diu, is famous in Portuguese legend.

✓ ([Dom] João de) Castro, *Discurso da Vida do Sempre Bem Vindo e Aparecido Rey Dom Sebastiam (...)* \*

By a grandchild of the author above, this is seemingly the first significative work to argue that King Sebastian of Portugal did not die in the battle of Alcácer Quibir. The work, in itself, recaps the life of the monarch, continues with the circumstances in which he disappeared, and finally tells a whole new story, a supposedly real one, in which he was still alive and perhaps even ready to come back and lead Portugal

once more. Whether the whole story was true, or a complete scam perpetrated by this author, appears to be still doubted to this very day.

✓ Cato the Elder, *De Agricultura*

One the Roman agricultural works which reached us. It is later quoted from by Varro's three extant books on the same subject.

✓ Catullus, *Poetry*

The poetry of Catullus is beautiful. I could leave it at that, but many of his poems also contain some mythological references.

✓ (William) Caxton, *History of Reynard the Fox*

A verse work retelling some of the adventures of Reynard, a famous fox from the Middle Ages. This is an English translation of a Dutch version, but it appears to be based on the original material, since characters sometimes reference other adventures which do not take place here, but which the original readers would certainly be familiarized with.

✓ (Edgar Evans) Cayce, *Edgar Cayce on Atlantis*

The author of this book compiled all his father's prophecies, or readings, on the subject of Atlantis in here. It is mostly an easy way to gain access to Edgar Cayce's (Sr.) on the subject, which is important since it had a significant impact on how we imagine Atlantis today, i.e. as a futuristic civilization and all that.

✓ Cebes(?), *Tablet of Cebes*

A short and philosophical description of life. It is a very simple and plain one, but there are also some charming aspects to it.

✓ Censorinus, *De Die Natali*

Originally created as a birthday gift for a friend of the author, this work presents succinct information on several different areas of Roman culture, such as astronomy, philosophical opinions, and other miscellanea.

✓ (C.W.) Ceram, *Gods, Graves & Scholars: The Story of Archaeology*

An apparently unusual book, which tells the human stories behind major archaeological finds regarding what the author simply calls "statues, pyramids,

towers and temples". It often reads almost as a novel, in the sense it is less of a scholarly book than a storytelling one.

- ✓ (D. Manuel Gonçalves) Cerejeira, *Lurdes e Fátima*

A short speech, essentially comparing the message of Our Lady in Fátima (Portugal) and Lourdes (France), and fit for its time in 1958.

- ✓ (Miguel de) Cervantes, *Don Quixote*

This is undoubtedly among the most interesting fictional books I had the opportunity of reading. Although two stories-within-a-story from the first part take way too long and don't advance the plot in any significant way, impoverishing the overall pace of the adventure, most of its content, alongside with its real second part (there was also a false one, by Avellaneda, already discussed above), is quite amusing, in the way in which it satirizes the essential conventions of chivalric romances. For that reason, this work naturally contains many mythological and legendary references, both from the Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

✓ (Miguel de) Cervantes, *El Casamiento Enganoso*

Part of the author's *Novelas Exemplares*, this short story speaks of a man who marries a mysterious woman, and how he is eventually tricked by her. The ending can be seen coming a mile away.

✓ (Miguel de) Cervantes, *El Coloquio de los Perros*

Also part of the author's *Novelas Exemplares*, and directly linked to the end of *El Casamiento Enganoso*, here a dog tells his personal story to another one. It has some racist sequences, by today's standards, but overall the story has some interesting elements here and there, such as the portrayal of magic. Oddly enough, although the dogs themselves point out how strange it is they can speak, why they're able to do so is never explained.

• (Miguel de) Cervantes, *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda* \*

✓ César das Neves, *Cancioneiro de Músicas Populares* \*

Published at the very end of the XIX century, and with three volumes, this work contains many famous old



songs from Portugal, but also a smaller number of notable ones from other places. All the songs feature their sheet music, and in some specific cases they even contain short notes explaining a bit more about the song's context.

- ✓ (Jean-François) Champollion, *Lettre à M. Dacier relative à l'alphabet des hiéroglyphes phonétiques*

A notable letter in which the author first tells how he deciphered the Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphs. The text itself is pretty understandable, and the process he followed makes absolute sense.

- ✓ (Jean-François) Champollion, *Panthéon Égyptien, Collection des Personnages Mythologiques de L'Ancienne Égypte* \*

This work presents, at least in the edition I had access to, images of many gods from Egypt, followed by descriptions of information about each one of them. These are not myths, but the work in fact does contain some brief mythological pieces of information here and there.

- ✓ (Kamala) Chandrakant, *Dasha Avatar: The Ten Incarnations of Lord Vishnu*

I came across this book by complete accident, it is a comic with the stories of the ten avatars of Vishnu. The kernel of their stories is explained fairly well, but the author oversimplified everything for the stories of Rama and Krishna.

- ✓ (Kamala) Chandrakant, *Garuda: Vishnu's Divine Mount*

A comic book, essentially portraying the origin story of Garuda and his powers.

- ✓ (Kamala) Chandrakant, *Prahlad: A Tale of Devotion From the Bhagawat Purana*

Another comic book, this one focusing essentially on the background and figure of Prahlad, with the episode with Narasimha even playing a minor role.

- ✓ (Kamala) Chandrakant, *Shiva Parvati: A Story of Divine Love*

One more comic book, this one about the love story of Shiva and Parvati.

- ✓ (Manoel Severim de Faria) Chantre, *Vida de Diogo de Couto*

A brief life of this author from Portugal, with some long references to his association with the work *Décadas da História da Índia*.

- ✓ Chariton of Aphrodisias, *Callirhoe*

The oldest complete ancient prose romance which reached us. The storyline tends to be somewhat predictable, since the same kind of episodes (like kidnappings by pirates) repeatedly occurred in novels such as these.

- ✓ Charlie Chaplin, *My Autobiography*

An autobiography which taught me a lot of things I never thought I would know about this famous actor and filmmaker. Although it tells readers a lot about his life, I found the bits about his movies disappointing, since he never talks extensively about them, to the point he doesn't even tell us how he created what ended up becoming the most famous of all his characters. So, this is great if you want to know about him, but not so much if you want to learn more about his work in the movies.

✓ Charlie Chaplin, *My Life in Pictures*

Perhaps best complemented with the aforementioned autobiography, this other work presents the entire life of the famous actor just through photos and artistic representations.

✓ Charlotte de Castelnau-L'Estoile, *Páscoa et ses deux maris. Une esclave entre Angola, Brésil et Portugal au XVIIe siècle*

The non-fictional story of female slave, originally from Angola, who was later moved to Brazil, where she was accused by the Inquisition of having two husbands.

The book follows the whole process, even quoting from the original documents, and further adds to it a lot of information regarding the cultural context in which the entire case took place.

✓ Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*

While in a pilgrimage towards Canterbury Cathedral several people share fictional stories, with at least some of them having an undeniable inspiration from Ancient tales.

✓ Chaucer, *The House of Fame*

An incomplete epic poem, about a strange (and fictional?) dream of the poet, in which he visited the ethereal House of Fame. The first canto, in which he recalls the story of Aeneas from the *Aeneid*, and the third, in which he finally learns the mysteries of Fame, seemed particularly interesting to me, but given its incompleteness we'll never know where the plot was leading to.

✓ Chaucer, *The Legend of Good Women*

In a fictional(?) dream Chaucer is invited to write a poem extolling the virtues of women, where he mentions some figures from Ancient History and Mythology. There's nothing too unusual about the myths presented here, they just follow the classical traditions available at the time of the author.

• Chaucer, *The Parliament of Birds*

✓ (Luís) Chaves, *O Amor Português: O namoro, o casamento, a família*

Published in 1922, this book preserves the traditional ideas from Portugal related to dating, marriage and

family life. It does not talk extensively about any of the three fields, but it contains many traditional verses and references to now-forgotten traditions, although it does not delve deeper into any of them.

✓ (Wu) Cheng'en, *Journey to the West* \*

Perhaps most famous among western audiences as the work which inspired the first season of *Dragon Ball*, this is essentially a novel in which the heroes seek to retrieve some sacred writings from "the West" (i.e. likely India). Its main character, Sun Wukong, is perhaps the work's most interesting element, and all the plot lines in which he intervenes tend to be quite amusing. Its big popularity in China is, in my personal view, fully deserved.

✓ (Gordon) Cheers, *Mitologia*

Although this massive volume contains really beautiful images all across it, the information it presents on world's mythologies is also very limited. I was offered a Portuguese copy of it, hence why this work's name is translated here.

✓ (Thomas) Chestre, *Sir Launfal*

A medieval English adaptation of Marie de France's *Lanval*.

- ✓ (Neil) Chethik, *FatherLoss: How Sons of All Ages Come to Terms with the Deaths of Their Dads\**

I tried to read this book to help me further explore the loss of my own father. It has some good chapters, such as when the author divides the effects of such death by periods of the son's life, and some less interesting ones, but the whole work is definitely worth exploring if you're going through the death of a significant family member.

- ✓ (Tom) Chetwynd, *Dictionary of Sacred Myth*

I once found this at a book fair, almost for free. I took it home, but it ended up being a very simplistic work, crowded with mostly worthless information.

- ✓ (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Auto da Natural Invenção* \*

Somewhat of a rare work, this play does not have a major underlying topic behind it, but presents multiple scenes apparently from daily life of the period it was composed in.

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Auto das Regateiras* \*

✓ (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Avisos para Guardar*

A collection of advice from XVI century Portugal, typically telling the reader what kind of people they should keep away from.

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Carta a um Amigo Religioso* \*

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Letresiros* \*

✓ (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Parvoices que Acontecem Muitas Vezes*

A collection of supposedly dumb things which were very common in the author's time. They are all complemented with proverbs related to them.

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Prática dos Compadres*\*

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Prática de Oito Figuras*\*

✓ (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Profecias para o ano*



de 1579

A funny work, in which the author “predicts” what will happen in a future year. His’ are all super obvious predictions, which would all have certainly happened one way or another.

- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Querela entre o Chiado e Afonso Alvares* \*
- (António Ribeiro) Chiado, *Regra Espiritual que fez António Chiado ao Geral de S. Francisco* \*
- ✓ (Nicolas) Chorier, *Aloisiae Sigaeae, Toletanae, Satyra sotadica de arcanis Amoris et Veneris* \*

Falsely attributed to Luisa Sigea, probably due to its resemblance to one of her (real) dialogues, in here an older woman introduces a younger and inexperienced one to the joys of the carnal pleasures. It contains some unusual mythological references here and there, but they’re very subtle and completely secondary to the main plot.

- ✓ (Catherine W.) Christie, *Theosophy for Beginners, and for the use of Lotus Circles*  
Essentially an introduction to the beliefs of Theosophy,

seemingly written for a younger audience. It allows readers to gain a good insight into their essential beliefs.

✓ Christopher Columbus, *Journal*

This personal journal narrates the journeys of Christopher Columbus in the first person, with entries which appear to go almost on a daily basis, detailing everything he and his shipmen went through in their first travel through the Americas. It is certainly a very significant book, due to the details it presents and its portrayal of the interaction between these sailors and the local people of America.

✓ (Menelaos) Christopoulos, *Casus Belli: causes of the Trojan War in the epic cycle*

A research paper regarding what had originally caused the Trojan War in the Epic Cycle. Our extant sources do give us several different opinions, but here the author seems to be particularly interested not on the late sources, but on what the Homeric Poems (and at least one tragedian) have to say about that subject.

✓ Chronicle Press, *Urban Legends of Texas:*

*Exploring Creepy Unexplained Tales from  
America*

A small compilation of legends associated with the state of Texas. Whether they are truly “urban” ones is quite debatable, but their presentation in this book is jumbled, confusing, and far from interesting. I did not like it at all.

- ✓ (Alfred John) Church, *The Faery Queen and Her Knights: Stories Retold from Edmund Spenser*\*

I had to read this one book because, unfortunately, I could not locate a good edition of Spenser’s original work in Modern English. This work seems to retell a few episodes of the original, and does so in an easily readable way. And, based solely on this retelling, it does seem Spenser’s epic relies heavily on Classical Tradition for some of its adventures.

- ✓ (Alfred John) Church, *Heroes of Chivalry and Romance* \*

A simple retelling of three famous tales – Beowulf, King Arthur (and some of the Knights of the Round Table), and the story of the Nibelungs. Unfortunately, this work also significantly changes the plot of the

originals, in some points becoming almost absurd, as when the author explicitly refuses to retell the reasons for the quarrel between Arthur and Lancelot that eventually leads to the former's death.

- ✓ (James) Churchward, *The Lost Continent of Mu: The Motherland of Man*

Best known as the book which popularised the idea of Mu as a lost continent, I found it to be far from interesting and filled with enormous fantasies, more appropriate to a completely fictional work, than to one proposing what could be a world-shattering new scientific theory – what is presented here is clearly not one at all.

- ✓ Cicero, *Against Catilina* (1-4)

Cicero's famous speeches against Catilina. The most I can tell you about them is that they had an important impact on western society across the centuries, as did many other works by the same author.

- ✓ Cicero, *Brutus*

A history of Roman Oratory.

✓ (Pseudo-)Cicero, *Consolation*

Although Cicero's original work on the consolation of Tullia is seemingly lost, a forgery of this work appeared in the XVI century. Reading it easily exposes its false origin.

✓ Cicero, *De Amicitia*

I tend to say that there are some works which should be read by everyone during their lifetime, and Cicero's treatise on friendship would certainly be one of them. Chances are that the author read everything that existed on the subject before he composed this work, and reading it does teach us many, many things on the true value of friendship.

✓ Cicero, *De Finibus*

A treatise on Ethics, but particularly famous for a sequence you may have unwittingly read several times across the years. Curious? Well, the main kernel of the "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet (...)" placeholder text comes from here!

✓ Cicero, *De Senectute*

Cicero's treatise on old age is also one of those I

always felt everyone should read, as it significantly helps dispel the human fear of growing old and (eventually) dying.

✓ Cicero, *On Divination*

Yet another philosophical treatise, this one presenting arguments for and against the idea that it is possible to predict the future. It may be related to the other two treatises presented next.

✓ Cicero, *On Fate* \*

This treatise by Cicero is incomplete, both its beginning and ending sections having been lost. It focuses essentially on the subject of fate, as its title evidently shows. Potentially related to the ones above and below.

✓ Cicero, *On the Nature of the gods*

Yet another treatise by Cicero, this one focusing on a more theological subject, that of the gods themselves. Potentially related to the other two treatises presented above.

✓ Cicero, *Pro Archia*

A famous court speech in defence of the poet Archia. We don't really know how the case ended, but here Cicero does present some very interesting points in favour of the defendant and the Arts themselves.

✓ Cicero, *Scipio's Dream*

Originally a part of Cicero's (now lost) *Republic*, the sequence known under this name contains a dream vision of the afterlife which, apparently, only reached us because Macrobius later wrote a commentary on it.

✓ Cicero, *Stoic Paradoxes*

Here, Cicero attempts to explain the meaning of six famous stoic sayings.

✓ Cicero, *Tusculan Disputations*

Five books by Cicero on the subjects such as death, pain, grief and the passions. Although they do contain profitable information, for some unknown reasons they never managed to capture my interest as much as some of the author's other works.

✓ (Quintus Tullius) Cicero, *On Running for the Consulship*

From Marcus Tullius' brother, this text essentially preserves some advice on how one ought to run for consulship. I best saw it described online as "a guide to political behaviour".

- ✓ (Maria de Lourdes) Cidraes, *Encantamentos, milagres e outros prodígios: Os animais das nossas lendas*

A research paper presenting some references to legends from Portugal in which animals have a significant role. Regrettably, the author does not tell those legends, instead just mentioning their names and occasionally some brief facts about them.

- ✓ (E.) Cingano, *The Death of Oedipus in the Epic Tradition*

A research paper on the way Oedipus' death was seen in the very first (and fragmentary) literary sources we have available to us. The evidence doesn't seem to be fully conclusive, but it does present a different version of the hero's death.

- ✓ (Jerome) Clark, *Extraordinary Encounters: An Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrials and*



### *Otherworldly Beings*

This work essentially presents, in a synthetic form, the extraterrestrials and similar beings which humankind has supposedly contacted in multiple ways. What makes it occasionally amusing is that, to me, it seemed that the author treats some of the entities he describes a bit tongue in cheek, alluding to the fact that at least some of them are not so real as one could expect.

- ✓ (Jerome) Clark, *Unexplained! Strange Sightings, Incredible Occurrences, and Puzzling Physical Phenomena* \*

A compilation of supposedly-real tales of mysteries around the globe, ranging from the possibly-still-living Thylacine, to the Cottingley Fairies and some very strange books on UFOs. The author provides references at the end of each chapter, for those who want to research any of the topics covered further.

- ✓ (Tim) Clarkson, *Scotland's Merlin: A Medieval Legend and its Dark Age Origins*

This book argues that the arthurian Merlin was based on a real figure who lived a few centuries before. The

author makes some good points, plus near the end of the book you can find some appendices with (part of?) the original texts, which is always good.

- ✓ (Albrecht) Classen, *Erotic Tales of Medieval Germany* \*

A compilation of 20 medieval tales from various sources associated with Germany. They have no significant notes, and so they may not be easily understood by some readers.

- ✓ Claudian, *Gigantomachia*

This could be one of the few poems which extensively retells us the events of the mythical episode known as the "Gigantomachy", but unfortunately it ends almost at the beginning of the war. Was the rest of poem lost, or did the author simply die before finishing it?

- ✓ Claudian, *The Phoenix*

A poetic description of the bird known as the Phoenix, essentially based on Herodotus' description.

- ✓ Claudian, *The Rape of Proserpina*

This is likely the longest extant poem on the Rape of

Proserpina, but it is not complete, ending shortly after Ceres begins looking for her missing daughter.

✓ (Manuel) Cláudio, *O Egregio Encuberto* \*

A dialogue on the portuguese legend of "Sebastianismo", between someone who believes in it and someone who doesn't. It slightly presents their beliefs, but it also seems to focus way more on the christian idea of the Apocalypse and the end of times. I expected a lot more information on the main topic at hand, and ended up very disappointed with this work.

✓ (Emperor) Claudius, *Letter to the Alexandrians*

A letter written by this emperor to the citizens of the city of Alexandria, seemingly after it was conquered by the Romans, in which he references some problems taking place at the time and how they can and should be corrected.

✓ (Matt) Clayton, *Korean Mythology: Captivating Myths, Legends, and Folktales from Korea* \*

Although this work contains a few retellings of a small number of traditional stories from Korea, they are also presented in a way which is not very enjoyable.

✓ Cleanthes, *Hymn To Zeus*

A seemingly-incomplete hymn to Zeus. It does not seem to report on any specific myth, instead just praising the god and his powers.

✓ (Hervey) Cleckley, *The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues About the So-Called Psychopathic Personality* \*

Although the title pretty much explains what this book is all about, what makes it noteworthy here is essentially the fact one of initial chapters contains the detailed stories of people who seemingly have Psychopathic Personality Disorders.

✓ Clement of Alexandria, *Protrepticus*

Part of a thematic trilogy by Clement of Alexandria, this work attempts to show the weaknesses of pagan religions. With that goal in mind, the author references several religious aspects of an anthropological nature, along with some myths.

✓ Clement of Alexandria, *Stromata* \*

Another part of the same thematic trilogy, most

famous for the fact it preserves many extracts from works which are now lost. However, this work is focused more on an apology of Christianity.

✓ Cleomedes, *The Heavens*\*

An astrological work from the Antiquity, notable for presenting the positions of an earlier author, Posidonius of Rhodes. Other than that, I did not find it specially interesting.

- (Edward) Clodd, *Myths and Dreams*

✓ (Diablo) Cody, *The Powerpuff Girls Pilot*, 9th February 2021

I accidentally came across this TV show pilot, and it essentially presented an absolutely absurd updated version of the series, with horrendous phrases and ideas such as "Blossom, wake up or we'll leak your nudes everywhere!" Perhaps it should have been produced, so that people could really see, live, how crazy the entire thing is.

✓ (Adolfo) Coelho, *Contos Populares Portuguezes*\*

A XIX century compilation of tales from Portugal, with

the most noteworthy one being, in my personal opinion, an old version of the story of “Carochinha e João Ratão”, which today is only known in a simplified form.

✓ (Adolfo) Coelho, *Jogos e Rimas Infantis*

A fairly simple book in which the author reports some traditional children’s rhymes and games from Portugal. It deserves to be noted that the author gives some brief synopsis on how to play the latter.

✓ (Adolfo) Coelho, *Obra Etnográfica I* \*

A collection of many pieces of research on Portuguese ethnography from the author. The most noteworthy aspect is perhaps the fact he quotes extensively from primary sources, including some which are hard to access nowadays.

✓ (Adolfo) Coelho, *Obra Etnográfica II* \*

Following from the previous work, this one has some tales for children and mentions some traditional games for them. It also has some other subjects related to popular education, which I found a lot less interesting.

- ✓ (João Roiz) Coelho, *Tractado Critico Sobre a Magia (...)*

A Portuguese treatise against the existence of real magic. Although the author is clearly well-meaning, his arguments are confusing, disorganized and very repetitive. If, ultimately, he may have failed in his personal goal of showing that magic isn't truly real, the book in itself is well worth mentioning because it preserves several national beliefs from the XVIII century, which is one of the main reasons why I decided to edit the original manuscript myself.

- ✓ (Paulo) Coelho, *O Alquimista*

I knew beforehand this was a novel, but I was hoping it really had something to do with Alchemy or the pursuit of knowledge. Instead, it's essentially a bland story with somewhat of an "oh, the prize was inside you all along" moral, and some (very) vague references to the alchemic art here and there.

- ✓ (Beth) Cohen, *The Colors of Clay: Special Techniques in Athenian Vases* \*

A catalogue from an exhibition which took place in the USA back in 2006. It is richly adorned with photos of

all the vases, and presents extensive technical information on all of them.

- ✓ (Karl F.) Cohen, *Forbidden Animation: Censored Cartoons and Blacklisted Animators in America*

In its essence, this book presents a history of cartoon censorship, from the media's humble beginnings up to our day and age. It pretty much focuses on North American productions, but it also has some more limited information on the ones from other countries. At the end there's a chapter on people who got blacklisted during the "Red Scare", but for me it is the least interesting part of the whole thing.

- ✓ (John) Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl*

This second-person report on the Reimer Twins' case is as interesting as it is shocking. I had to stop reading it multiple times, due to some really horrible things the report represents, but it very clearly deserve to be read by anyone who has any interest in the modern cults of transexuality and how it affects the children who have been subject to sex-changes at a young age.



✓ (Jason) Colavito, *Golden Fleece*

A refutation of a strange work in which it was argued that Jason's myth could, in some way, be related to "Ancient Alien" theories.

✓ (Jason) Colavito, *Legends of the Pyramids: Myths and Misconceptions About Ancient Egypt\**

When we think about Ancient Egypt, and particularly the Pyramids, we associate many myths and legends to them. What this book does is explaining where those ideas come from, historically. It is a bit of an interesting read, but regrettably the author does not mention what editions he consulted for each of the works he quotes from and alludes to.

✓ (Peter) Cole, *The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain* \*

A compilation of hebrew poems from the X century up to the XV century Spain. Each section presents an author, with some basic introductory information on them, and then follows with at least one of his poems.

✓ (Loren) Coleman, *Cryptozoology A to Z*

Essentially an encyclopedia on Cryptozoology, briefly

presenting the most famous creatures, which are oddly featured along with some of the researchers in this area, which becomes even stranger if you take into account some of them are still living. Overall, a below-average book on cryptids.

✓ (Jacques) Collin de Plancy, *Dictionnaire Critique des Reliques et des Images Miraculeuses* \*

From the early XIX century, this unexpected work basically goes through religious figures related to Christianity and, after briefly introducing them, then reports which churches contain relics from each. And although that is fascinating, sometimes even fun, it deserves to be noted that many such cult places and their relics have disappeared by now, and so, even if you spot some amazing pieces of information here, you may not necessarily be able to find said relics in the places the work mentions. At the same time, it also must be added that this is (very unfortunately) not a fully complete dictionary, that is, among less famous figures, or more regional ones, there are undoubtedly many not covered here!

✓ (Jacques) Collin de Plancy, *Dictionnaire Infernal*\*

This book has a long subtitle explaining what it is all about, but it can briefly be presented as a work on non-christian subjects, ranging from strange beings, demons and magic, up to prodigies, witches, philosophers and various superstitions. Some entries present too few information, but overall the work is informative at an introductory level, even if the author doesn't always state his sources.

- ✓ (Father Michael) Collins, *Remarkable Books: A Celebration of the World's Most Beautiful and Historic Works* \*

A modern compilation of books which were culturally significant across the centuries, with some special emphasis on those preserved in beautiful manuscripts. They are all succinctly presented here, with this work's most notable asset certainly being the reproductions of some images from the originals.

- ✓ (Carlo) Collodi, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*  
Although purely fictional, this now-famous work could even be based on a myth or legend, given the fact it contains plenty of amusing, and yet extremely strange, adventures of a talking block of wood who seeks to

become human. It is quite an enjoyable read, if you're looking for something that may appeal to both children and adults alike.

✓ Coluthus, *The Rape of Helen*

A small poem presenting the famous Judgement of the Goddesses and its aftermath, in which Paris eventually kidnaps Helen and takes her to Troy.

✓ (John Amos) Comenius, *Orbis [Sensualium] Pictus*\*

Essentially a school manual of Latin for children, published in the middle of the XVII century. Each chapter is illustrated with a picture and the text that follows covers the words, actions and locations presented in the image itself. Also, many different areas of knowledge are covered, with the very last one being the Final Judgement.

✓ (Domenico) Comparetti, *Vergil in the Middle Ages*

A very curious work about how Virgil, the Roman poet and author of the *Aeneid*, was changed and seen differently across the centuries. Some of the chapters

seemed quite boring to me, mostly since they are used to establish the context for the ones after them, but others are more interesting and provide, here and there, information on the bibliography one can read to learn more about the Virgil's cultural and symbolic life across the many centuries after his death.

- ✓ (Arthur) Conan Doyle, *The Coming of the Fairies\**

Based on the case of the Cottingley Fairies, which the author discusses extensively in here, before adding his own view on the whole case, independent evidence, and what he thinks the fairies truly are. Although the book is not very enjoyable in itself, it does have a certain charm if you read it fully knowing the Cottingley Fairies were actually a hoax, and that, given that major fact, Conan Doyle's opponents – which he does quote extensively from, in this book – were actually correct in many of their arguments against the author.

- (António Adérito Alves) Conde, *Madame Brouillard – Quiromante e benemérita. Uma história (de)vida*

✓ Conde de Sabugosa, *O Paço de Cintra* \*

Published at the beginning of the XX century, this book presents extensive historical, legendary and descriptive information regarding the so-called “Paço de Cintra”, now best known as the Palace of the Village of Sintra, here in Portugal. The work also features many personal drawings of the place by Queen Amelia of Portugal.

✓ Confucius, *Analects* \*

Likely one of the most important books from China, it preserves some of the ideas of Kongzi (best known in the West as Confucius), as they were compiled by one of his students. Some of the recorded phrases and ideas may be hard to understand by people not familiarized with the original context, but others are though-provoking regardless of your native culture.

✓ Conrad Gessner, *Bibliotheca Universalis* \*

Seemingly the first major catalogue of literary works which were available in the West, Gessner goes through the names of each author and presents the name of each of their works which could still be found

at the time. He does not say much else about each of the works themselves, but such “flaw” is certainly understandable given the fact he has catalogued over three thousand works.

✓ Conrad Gessner, *Historia Animalium* \*

Apparently the oldest and most complete encyclopedia on animals, the author provides an enormous number of entries, across five volumes – 1) viviparous quadrupeds; 2) oviparous quadrupeds; 3) birds; 4) fish and aquatic animals; 5) snakes and scorpions – which he complements with extensive biographical information and an enormous number of engravings (among them the famous rhinoceros of Albrecht Durer). Even if you can’t read the original’s language, the engravings themselves are more than enough to make this an extremely interesting work. Many entries refer to legendary and mythological creatures, with the author admitting, in some cases, that he himself doubted the existence of some creatures reported on by previous authors.

✓ Consiglieri Pedroso, *Contos Populares Portugueses* \*

One of the earliest compilations of tales from Portugal, which the author states he obtained from oral sources (however, he never specifies where he obtained each of them). It's simple enough, and seemingly they were not censored in any way, unlike Grimm's editions. It should also be noted this work exists in English, under the name of *Portuguese Folk-Tales*.

- ✓ Consiglieri Pedroso, *Contribuições para uma Mitologia Popular Portuguesa e Outros Escritos Etnográficos*

This compilation can essentially be split into two major sections, the first one containing essays regarding certain mythological figures from Portugal, and the second on stories coming from the same country. It is definitely a thought-provoking work, even if the author is ultimately unable to provide us with as much information on the subject as he seemed to desire.

- ✓ Constantine XI Palaiologos, Final Speech

The final speech of Constantine XI Palaiologos before the Fall of Constantinople is reported similarly in at least two sources, and there's nothing too unreal about it. It is quite possible that the author actually said



what George Sphrantzes reports in his work – a short, and yet inspiring, speech of someone who truly feels that his ending may be coming sooner than later.

- ✓ (James Wyatt) Cook, *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Literature* \*

Pretty much focusing on literature from Europe, the good thing about this encyclopedia is that it provides some bibliography to each of its entries, making it easier to track down if a translation to English of one particular work exists.

- ✓ (Alison E.) Cooley, *The Cambridge Manual of Latin Epigraphy* \*

Basically, this work introduces you to Latin Epigraphy, but it is not exactly an introductory step-by-step guide, but one that seems to assume you already know something about the subject at hand. However, at the end, in one of its appendices, it contains a listing of the Romans emperors, their titles and the dates they attained them, which is super useful when it comes down to dating coins and epigraphic inscriptions.

✓ (Nicolaus) Copernicus, *Commentariolus*

A small and simplified presentation of the heliocentric model that Copernicus would, a few years later, popularize.

✓ (Nicolaus) Copernicus, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres* \*

The famous scientific work in which the author proves that the Sun, and not the Earth, is at the centre of our solar system. It begins a bit as a philosophical work, as the author discusses what his predecessors wrote on the subject, but then it turns into more of a work with complex geometry, and those parts are very hard to follow unless the subject is indeed your main area of study. Ultimately, and in spite of its enormous cultural importance, this is clearly not a work for everyone.

✓ (Philip) Coppens, *The Ancient Alien Question*

I had very mixed feelings about this book. The author essentially gets the ideas of Erich von Daniken's *Chariots of the Gods?* and updates them with new information, frequently supporting the original one, but the way in which he does it is a bit strange. At some points he appears to treat the "Ancient Alien" topic in

an almost unbiased way, while in others he clearly wants to believe in spite of all the evidence against some particular case. And that generates a bit of a strange book, with the unexpected ending, where the author himself literally dies, only adding to that same strangeness.

- ✓ (Luciano) Cordeiro, *Soror Marianna, a Freira Portuguesa*

An extensive work on the *Letters of a Portuguese Nun* and Mariana Alcoforado, presenting what we know, and what we don't, about them. The author also features his own translated of the (French) letters here, after a long dissertation on all the subjects at hand.

- ✓ (Valerio A.) Cordeiro, *Vida do Beato Nuno Alvarez Pereira* \*

A life of Nuno Alvares Pereira in Portuguese, seemingly based on the best historical sources, to which the author also added some information on his metaphorical afterlife and cult, along with other supplemental information.

- ✓ (Flavius Cresconius) Corippus, *Iohannis* or *De*

*Bellis Libycis*

Written in the VI century AD, this work presents the deeds of John Troglita, but the ending is partially damaged. Although myths are mostly absent from the work, the author does occasionally allude to some mythological figures and events (at least one apparently unknown to us), and twice he describes how prophetesses worked to do their job.

- ✓ (Flavius Cresconius) Corippus, *In laudem Iustini Minoris*

A brief report of the first years of the reign of Justin II, in the VI century AD. The work appears to be very incomplete, and with some flaws.

- ✓ Cornelius Nepos, *Life of Eminent Commanders*  
Small biographies of Greek and Latin people who could be considered important commanders, such as Themistocles, Pausanias, Hamilcar and Hannibal.

- ✓ Cornutus, *Compendium of Greek Theology*  
Cornutus presents here the myths of the gods through their etymologies and symbolic interpretations. Most of the evidence he provides is actually very

circumstantial, often relying on resemblances of words and sounds which, realistically, may not even be related at all.

- ✓ (Alexandre José Parafita) Correia, *Mouros Míticos em Trás-os-Montes – contributos para um estudo dos mouros no imaginário rural a partir de textos da literatura popular de tradição oral*

A PhD thesis on the myths and legends of the Enchanted Moors in the north of Portugal. The first volume basically studies the whole subject, while the second preserves some of the stories the author collected for this study. Overall, I felt his explanations in the former were good, but I failed to find a complete copy of the latter.

- ✓ (P. J.) Correia, *O Conto Tradicional Português no Séc. XXI* \*

Naturally written in Portuguese, this collection presents over 500 Portuguese tales recorded from oral sources. Most of them come from the region of Algarve, since they were all compiled by local college students, but what is particularly noteworthy is that some stories

presented here are clearly related to sources from the Antiquity and the Middle Ages – even when the people who retell them to us seem to be completely unaware of those original literary sources.

- ✓ (Virgílio Hipólito) Correia, *Conímbriga: A Vida de uma Cidade da Lusitânia*

Published in 2024, but seemingly worked on for multiple years, this work describes the genesis and evolution of the roman town of Conímbriga, near the modern Coimbra, Portugal. It seems to be the most complete work on the subject, and it also contains many photos from the place, both older and very recent ones.

- ✓ (António Moniz Barreto) Corte-Real, *Bellezas de Coimbra*

Written in the first half of the XIX century by a student of the university of Coimbra, this work succinctly describes the story of the city and some of its most notable monuments, even referencing a few local legends here and there. Supposedly the author was even going to write a second part, with the history of the famous university, but either it was never

published at all, or I was ultimately unable to find a single copy of it.

- ✓ (Isaac Preston) Cory, *Cory's Ancient Fragments*  
[1876] \*

This work contains fragments from several ancient authors, such as Sanchuniathon, Berossus, Manetho, or Cleitarchus, among others. What makes it specially valuable is that they are all translated to English, and Cory also provides small introductions to each author. The edition from 1876 has some additional content, which was not available in the previous ones.

- Cosmas Indicopleustes, *Christian Topography* \*
- ✓ (António Carvalho da) Costa, *Corografia Portuguesa, e descripçam topográfica do famoso reyno de Portugal* \*

Written at the beginning of the XVIII century, through its three volumes this work describes many cities and villages from all over Portugal, giving some information about each of them. However, it should be noted the amount of information provided tends to widely vary, from just a small paragraph up to dozens of pages;

sometimes it does report myths and legends associated with the names of each place and its respective origins (e.g. the case of Alenquer), others it completely omits those elements with no explanation (e.g. Oeiras).

- ✓ (Diogo da) Costa, *Auto Novo e Curioso da Forneira de Aljubarrota*

A late short story, preserving the Portuguese tale of the Female Baker of Aljubarrota. Essentially, it gives a potential backstory to the character from the famous national legend, seemingly based on traditional information created and evolved across the centuries.

- ✓ (Henrique Luiz Feijó da) Costa, *Descrição das Armas Reaes de Portugal (...)*

This short book describes the coats of arms of Portugal and many of its cities and villages. Unfortunately, only sometimes does it explain the meanings of the elements presented in the iconographies.

- ✓ (Donald) Cotton, *Doctor Who: The Myth Makers*

A short-ish novel introducing Doctor Who to the story of the Trojan War. It features Homer as the narrator,



and plenty of allusions to myths of Ancient Greece, but other than that the whole plot is what you'd generally expect from the show.

- ✓ (Charles Russell) Coulter, *Encyclopedia of Ancient Deities* \*

The title perfectly conveys what this is, but the big issue is that the authors do not provide any direct literary sources for the information in each entry. Which is a problem, since they occasionally mention some stunning pieces of information, and then a potential reader is completely left wondering where they even obtained that information from. We'll never know.

- ✓ (Antoine) Court de Gébelin, *Du Jeu Des Tarots*\*

A famous extract from the author's own massive *Monde Primitif*, it contains the earliest association of the tarot cards with the secret and ancient wisdom of the Egyptians. If you bother reading across it – the french extract seems to be easily available online – and decide to take it all with a very important grain of salt instead of readily accepting the thesis it proposes, you'll see how crazy and utter nonsense the whole idea

is, even more since our modern decks were significantly changed from the one Court de Gébelin originally had access to and writes about.

✓ (Tamsen) Courtenay, *Four Feet Under*

A very, very interesting book detailing the personal stories of 30 homeless people from London, England. It deserves to be noted here for the fact it presents them as real human beings, with a past and a present, instead of as mere numbers.

✓ (Manuel) Cousillas Rodriguez, *Los Duendes en la Literatura Española*

This research paper introduces very briefly the “duendes” (a mythological creature from the Iberian Peninsula), mentions some cases of their appearances near the sea, and retells one story related to them. I was definitely expecting something a lot more developed on this subject, since those who do not know this creature yet won’t learn much here either.

✓ (J. R. C.) Cousland, *Adam and Evel: Did Satan Sleep with Eve in the Greek and Latin Lives of Adam and Eve?*

This research paper investigates if the (late) tradition of Eve having fathered a son by Satan already occurred directly in some older works narrating the lives of Adam and Eve.

- ✓ (Manoel José Gonçalves) Couto, *Missão Abreviada para despertar os descuidados, converter os peccadores e sustentar o fructo das missões* \*

Published many times around the XX century with slightly different content between editions, this is a catholic book produced for small villages, where people supposedly had very limited culture and so wouldn't be able to understand more complex works – in fact, the families of the Seers of Fátima owned a copy of this work. It contains some meditations and prayers, along with short lives of the saints – possibly the most interesting element of the work, but it should be noted that their number and individual identities seem to vary from one edition to another.

- ✓ (Thomas J.) Craughwell, *St. Peter's Bones: How the Relics of the First Pope Were Lost and Found... and Then Lost and Found Again*

This curious work tells the story of the supposed bones of Saint Peter, and what happened to them across the centuries until our own day and age. It is a simple work, but also quite an informative one, perhaps best indicated for those who know little or nothing about the subject at all.

- ✓ (Thomas J.) Craughwell, *Urban Legends: 666 Absolutely True Stories That Happened to a Friend... of a Friend... of a Friend* \*

Here, you can read many urban legends from North America, generally retold in less than one or two pages. Chapters also have a final section where very small “stories” of a legendary nature are retold in just a few lines. Overall, this work deserves to be noted for the amount of stories it tells, but it suffers from the problem of not telling readers much more about each of them than the plot itself.

- ✓ (Cláudia) Cravo, *O Ensino das Línguas Clássicas: Reflexões e Experiências Didáticas*

A Portuguese book which shares some experiences and reflections on the teaching of classical languages, namely Latin.

- ✓ (Thomas) Creissen, *La christianisation des lieux de culte païens: 'assassinat', simple récupération ou mythe historiographique?*

This research article focuses on the idea that ancient churches always replaced ancient pagan temples. The author eventually proves that although this did happen in some cases, it was perhaps not as common as one potentially imagines today.

- ✓ Cristóbal de Molina, *Account of the Fables and Rites of the Incas* \*

This preserves a very small number of legends (mostly ones about post-flood stories), but a significant number of rituals, related to the Incas in the middle of the XVI century, which the author seemingly collected through locals who still knew their predecessors'. He also reports, supposedly in the first person, the basic elements and happenings of the local "Taki Unquy" movement.

- ✓ (Patricia) Crone, *Hagarism: The Making of the Islamic World*

A book on the origins of Islam, but ultimately its

authors seem to have changed their minds about all the older theories presented here. Personally, I was a bit disappointed with this work, since it seems to promise an interesting subject, but later gives readers a much less noteworthy set of theories on the origin and development of the Islamic World.

✓ (David A.) Croteau, *Urban Legends of the New Testament* \*

The title is a bit misleading for this one, since the book essentially contains 40 chapters regarding some sections of the New Testament which are commonly misinterpreted, and which the author tries to clear up, including by providing his sources for information.

✓ (Aleister) Crowley, *The Book of the Law*

An intensely mystical work, with some brief references to mythology from Ancient Egypt, which was supposedly dictated to Crowley by a mystical being. It is worth reading as a curiosity, since its content, essentially the sacred text of "Thelema", is not very pleasant or thought-provoking in itself.

✓ (Frei Bernardo da) Cruz, *Chronica de ElRei D.*

### *Sebastião* \*

A Portuguese chronicle of the life of the ill-fated king of Portugal, Sebastian, written by a contemporary monk. Oddly, it focuses a lot on the politics of Morocco, in order to later introduce why Portugal, and this one king, was attracted to the area, the same one where he eventually ended up dying. Overall, the book provides a lot of information about the king's reign and what happened after his supposed death, but some chapters are a bit secondary to that main plot.

### ✓ (Francisco Ignacio dos Santos) Cruz, *Da Prostituição na Cidade de Lisboa* \*

Published in 1841, this is a book on all aspects of prostitution in the city of Lisbon. Occasionally the author mentions some very small stories and pieces of trivia regarding the subject.

### ✓ Ctesias, *Indica* (f)

A work best known for presenting the wonders of India, but which contains a lot more fiction than fact. However, it is noteworthy for the fact that many other late authors based themselves in this source for their own reports on what existed in the lands of India.

- ✓ (Franz) Cumont, *The Mysteries of Mithra*  
On Mithra and Mithraism in the Roman Empire,  
apparently presenting more theories and assumptions  
than true facts. It presents literally no information on  
the myths or legends associated with this religion.
  
- ✓ (Scott) Cunningham, *The Truth About Witchcraft  
Today*  
The title of this book is completely misleading, since its  
main subject is, first and foremost, Wicca. The author  
explains, in a very simple and succinct way, definitely  
fit for everyone, what that religion really consists of,  
and attempts to dispel some of the myths about it.  
Overall he does a good job, although sometimes he  
mentions some bits of information that may not be  
entirely accurate.
  
- (Diogo Ramada) Curto, *A Capela Real: um  
espaço de conflitos (Século XVI a XVIII)*
  
- ✓ (José de Arimathéia Cordeiro) Custódio, *Do  
Olimpo ao Fuji: o valor pedagógico de 'Os  
Cavaleiros do Zodíaco'*



This very simple article talks about the usage of mythological elements in *Saint Seiya's* story arc of Hades. The two authors do not really go deep into any of them.

✓      Cynewulf, *Christ II: The Ascension*

A medieval poem on Christ's ascension, with some biblical references and personal comments from its author.

✓      Cynewulf, *The Death of St. Guthlac of Crowland*

The subject for this poem is evident from its title, but what is specially noteworthy about it is the fact that it narrates a long sickness of the saint, almost as if the author had seen the events developing right in front of him (he almost certainly didn't). Also, hilariously, it seems the poem – at least in the edition I had access to – ends before the saint actually dies, and so maybe it would have been best to name it "the long sickness of Saint Guthlac of Crowland" instead.

✓      Cynewulf, *The Fates of the Apostles*

A short poem in which the author very succinctly recalls what happened to all of Jesus' apostles. If

you're aware of their original stories you'll certainly recognise them here, but a reader who doesn't know them yet will certainly not learn anything of interest here either.

✓ Cynewulf, *The Finding of the True Cross*

A poem, of around 1320 verses, which begins with the conversion of Constantine during a battle, and then proceeds with how Saint Helen went to Jerusalem and found the true cross and the nails of Jesus' crucifixion. These events are here portrayed in a plot which is simple and easy to follow.

✓ Cynewulf, *The Martyrdom of St. Juliana of Nicomedia*

A poem narrating how Saint Juliana of Nicomedia was betrothed to a man but, instead of marrying him, devoted her virginity to God. It'd be the same story as in countless other martyrdoms, if it wasn't for the fact that the Devil himself here unsuccessfully tempts the saint.

✓ (Pseudo-Saint) Cyprian, *On the Public Shows*  
Often attributed to Saint Cyprian, this work explains

why Christians should not attend “public shows”, which can be defined here as all shows which were even remotely linked to the pagan deities, from theatre displays and music events all the way up to wrestling and horse races.

✓ (Saint) Cyprian, *On the Vanity of the Images*  
Possibly written by Saint Cyprian, it mostly shows that the pagan gods were not truly divine, but had several different kinds of purely human origins, and nothing else. Based on that, he then presents the truth of the real worship of God.

✓ Cyrano de Bergerac, *Comical History of the States and Empires of the Moon*

A satirical science-fiction novel, in which the main character visits the Moon and has many philosophical discussions with its inhabitants, including Socrates’ daemon. He also goes as far as visiting the Garden of Eden (which is here placed on the Moon, for reasons the work explains briefly), but potential readers of this work should be aware that the sequence is also significantly censored in some translated editions, and seems to be much more complete in the author’s

original language.

- ✓ Cyrano de Bergerac, *The States and Empires of the Sun*

A sequel to the aforementioned novel by the same author. Here, the main character visits the Sun, where he finds many wonders. However, if the previous work was of a more philosophical nature, this one focuses more on the adventure itself and all kinds of strange happenings, from a civilization of birds, talking trees, monster battles, and even an interesting reinterpretation of several myths from Ancient Greece and Rome.

- ✓ Cyril of Alexandria, *Against Julian*

Only one book of this work against Julian the Apostate appears to have reached us. It is particularly important due to the fact it indirectly preserves Julian's own ideas.

## 5- Section D

### ✓ D'Aulaire's, *Book of Greek Myths* \*

Written by a team of husband and wife, this work presents brief versions of the most famous myths from Ancient Greece. However, the work's most notable feature is indisputably the drawings of the myths themselves; although they vary widely in content and quality, they are still very interesting, particularly for younger audiences.

### ✓ D'Aulaire's, *Book of Norse Myths* \*

Similar to the one above, and a sequel of sorts, this book presents the main myths from Nordic Mythology, represented with beautiful handmade images. It is specifically for said representations that this work is notable.

### ✓ Da Vinci, *Thoughts on Art and Life*

A miscellaneous collection of Da Vinci's personal thoughts on the subjects of life, art and science. Contains many pearls of knowledge.

- (Christina) Dafni, *Methods of Divination at Delphi: the Pythia, Necromancy and Cleromancy*
- ✓ (Anna L.) Dallapiccola, *Dictionary of Hindu Lore and Legend*

If you are looking for some basic information on some hindu subjects, chances are that you'll find it explained here in short and simple terms, complete with hundreds of impressive images – and that's certainly good! However, the main problem about this book rises when you want more than that basic information; if you do find an interesting subject here and then you want to explore it further, the book provides no help in what direction to follow, time and again referring to multiple deities, myths and legends, but without ever telling the reader what to consult if they want to learn more about them.

- ✓ (Stephanie) Dalley, *Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others* \*

A compilation of stories coming from Mesopotamia, with each individual one containing a short introduction and some explanatory notes. Although, for general readers, the most noteworthy text included

here is certainly the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, this work also contains many others; unfortunately, they are not presented in any particular order, which may prevent casual readers from using it as an introduction to the subject.

- ✓ (Stephanie) Dalley, *The Mystery of the Hanging Garden of Babylon: An Elusive World Wonder Traced*

On the location and eventual fate of the famous “Hanging Gardens”. Essentially, the author proves that they did exist, but that they were located in a different place than usually supposed.

- ✓ (Lloyd William) Daly, *Altercatio Hadriani augusti et Epicteti philosophi*

About the Latin work of the same name, this work provides a very extended introduction to it and its influence in English, and is then complemented with an edition of its versions in German.

- ✓ Dan Ariely, *Misbelief: What Makes Rational People Believe Irrational Things*

Produced in the context of Covid-19 and through the

author's own personal experience then, this book on Psychology explores what leads people to believe in quite strange things, and how that process even evolved in recent years due to social media. One certainly has to wonder if the mechanisms presented here did not, back in the day, also apply in a way that generated many of today's so-called myths.

✓ (Alain) Danielou, *The Myths and Gods of India* \*  
An extremely philosophical work on the subject from the title. It was apparently popular, but for me it also felt very uninformative, uninteresting, and even notably hard to read.

✓ (Les) Daniels, *Superman: Complete History – Sixty Years of the Man of Steel*  
This is hardly a “complete history”, but it presents a succinct history of the American icon from its humble beginnings to our own day and age.

✓ Dante, *[Divine] Comedy*  
Originally only titled *Comedy*, but popularized as *Divine* following the commentary of Boccaccio, this is perhaps the most interestingly complex epic poem



available today. Although its first section, the *Inferno*, is simpler than the remaining two, the mystical elements and metaphors become deeper and more intricate as you continue reading...

Realistically, this is a very interesting poem, but also one which requires a very deep knowledge of mythological, legendary, historical and religious context in which it was produced. I myself had to study for years in order to understand some of its passages, and although I felt it was a profoundly rewarding experience, I strongly suggest this work is read with critical notes, as otherwise it would be difficult to fully understand many of its more complex sequences.

#### ✓ Dante, *Convivio*

The most interesting thing I tend to recall about this particular work is that it preserves a fascinating idea – it seems that Dante did not like meeting fans of his work, as he always felt that people expected some things from him but always ended up disappointed with the man they actually got. That is perhaps one of the earliest mentions – at least, that I can recall – about authors disliking to meet those who had

previously read their works.

✓ Dante, *Monarchia*

About the complex relationship between secular and the religious authorities.

✓ Dante, *New Life*

I always saw this work, mixing Italian prose and poetry, as somewhat of a prequel to the *Divine Comedy*, since it is after the death of Beatrice, first presented here, that the author decides to write his famous epic poem.

✓ Dares Phrygius, *The Fall of Troy*

Dares' account of the Trojan War is quite different from Homer's. In fact, the author justifies those differences by stating that his predecessor was a complete liar, and so proposes to present a "true" account of the war, where the gods and fantastic elements play a much smaller role. For that reason, this is more of a pseudo-historical work than a mythological one.

It would eventually become very popular in the Middle Ages, along with Dictys of Crete's, and that's where most medieval accounts of the story of Troy come

from.

✓ (Charles) Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* \*

Although truly important in the history of mankind as the work which introduced the idea of evolution among species, this is one of those books that you can't just pick up and read, or you'd find it extremely boring, since the author extensively presents his theory in a technical way and supports it with many examples. However, if you're truly curious about this book and its content, there are many partial conclusions at the end of chapters, and the final one contains a sum-up of the entire theory, which is perfectly readable from the standpoint of the general public.

✓ (Charles) Darwin, *The Descent of Man* \*

In this second noteworthy book, Darwin applies the idea of evolution to Man itself, by showing that he has several elements that connect him to animals and, therefore, he too must have evolved from a previous species. He openly admits, in the final chapter, this is a problematic idea for religion, but given his evidence it is an idea that makes absolute sense.

Like the previous one, this is another of those works

you cannot simply pick up and read, but many chapters have partial conclusions and the final one sums up the whole theory, and so those people who are curious about Darwin's ideas can, at the very least, read those specific sections.

✓ David Parker Ray, Audio Tape Transcript

There is an audio transcript of the tape this serial killer used to play for women. It is absolutely horrendous, and it shows the absurd limits to which human beings sometimes go to inflict pain and fear in others.

✓ (Malcolm) Davies, *Folk-tale Elements in the Cypria*

Based on the few pieces of evidence we currently have, Davies presents in this research paper an evaluation of folk-tale elements which likely occurred in the *Cypria*, a sort of prequel to the *Iliad*.

✓ (Malcolm) Davies, *The Theban Epics*

A book presenting and commenting on the fragments of the five poems which may have constituted the Theban War section of the Epic Cycle.

- ✓ (Owen) Davies, *Grimoires – A History of Magic Books* \*

Although this work provides some succinct references to the titles of many grimoires, which you can then conduct further research on, overall the information it provides is also very limited. For that reason, it can be used as a basic introduction to the subject, but more advanced readers will certainly find it uninformative at some key points.

- ✓ (Mary Hayes) Davis, *Chinese Fables and Folk Stories* \*

A simple compilation, seemingly the very first one in the English language, of popular stories originating from China.

- ✓ (Richard) Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

Whether one chooses to believe in divine entities or not, it doesn't really hurt to evaluate the evidence presented by those who disagree with our own personal opinions. That's why I read this particular book, famous for its strong atheistic position.

- ✓ (John) Day, *Yahweh and the Gods and*

*Goddesses of Canaan* \*

Written for specialists more than for curious readers, this work presents the Judaic figure of Yahweh in its original cultural and religious context, exploring its relationship with other gods and goddesses from its original day and age.

✓ (T. J.) De Boer, *The History of Philosophy in Islam*

This work is a great introduction to the topic of medieval Philosophy in Islam, since it seems to succinctly present all the main ideas of its main intervenors. However, despite presenting its subject with words worthy of an introduction, it still requires a significant degree of knowledge of Ancient Philosophy, particular Plato and Aristotle; without that, the reader will be unable to effectively understand what the late Islamic philosophers actually believed in.

✓ (Lyon Sprague) De Camp, *The Great Monkey Trial*

A work about the famous Scopes Monkey Trial, retelling its background, consequences and all its significant events in a simple and yet enjoyable way.

- ✓ (Susan) Deacy, *What Would Hercules Do? Lessons for Austistic Children Using Classical Myth*

This work essentially features a set of lessons that can be used for autistic students through one of Hercules' adventures. The author structures everything very well, and the whole idea is fairly easy to follow, even more since she even included resources that people can reuse to present these lessons to others.

- ✓ (Richard) Deakin, *Flora of the Colosseum of Rome* \*

Published in the middle of the XIX century, this work presents the 420 different types of flora which at the time existed inside the Colosseum of Rome. They are now long gone, but their former existence was preserved in this work, which even has some notable images of said flora.

- ✓ (Hippolyte) Delehaye, *The Legends of the Saints*  
If you are interested in the truth (and lies) behind the legends of the Christian saints, this is an amazing book which you definitely should read, as it serves as an

extremely intriguing introduction to the subject.

- ✓ (Joseph Octave) Delepierre, *Historical Difficulties and Contested Events*

Perhaps too brief but nonetheless interesting, the author presents here some historical events with some disputed elements (e.g. did the Colossus of Rhodes have open legs over the pier? What happened to the books in the Library of Alexandria? Who really invented the steam engine?), and in some limited cases even attempts to solve them. Ultimately, perhaps the good presentation of said problems is here more worthy of note than the seldom proposed solution to each of them.

- ✓ (Ramiro Gonzalez) Delgado, *Planudes y el Libro XII de la Antología Palatina*

A research paper on the censorship of homoerotic poems by Planudes, in his famous compilation. It seems the author decided to censure most of the poems with that topic over the fact they went against the Christian ideals of love.

- ✓ (António) Delicado, *Adágios Portugueses*



*Reduzidos a Lugares Comuns*

Seemingly the oldest compilation of proverbs from Portugal, published around the middle of the XVII century. They are presented in broad categories, which is particularly useful since it allows us to infer their original usage, but at the same time the author also repeats them in different chapters, which makes his compilation seem way bigger than it really is.

✓ Demmon, *The Book of Lamech of Cain*

A fake and forged manuscript supposedly covering the adventures of a member of the family of the biblical Cain. It's not even a very good forgery, but can be noted for having some of the main characters tame, and later even kill, a Leviathan.

✓ (Pseudo-)Democritus, *On the Making of Purple and Gold*, i.e. *Natural and Secret Questions*

A small book on a proto-alchemic subject, essentially presenting several recipes to turn other elements into purple (the colour, which was very valuable at the time) and gold.

✓ (Pseudo-)Democritus, *On the Making of Silver*

Another small book on a proto-alchemic subject, explaining how one can make silver. I didn't try this or the previous one, but I'd assume they don't really work.

✓ Demosthenes, *Erotic Essay*

Not exactly "erotic" in our sense of the word, this is essentially an oration praising a loved one.

✓ (Cláudio) DeNipoti, *Feitiçaria e Iluminismo: traduções e estratégias editoriais em Portugal no século XVIII*

A research article on the context in which, in the XVIII century, two works on witchcraft were translated from their original Italian to Portuguese.

✓ (Dan) Denis, *A systematic review of variables associated with sleep paralysis*

The title pretty much says it all for this one, but it can also be noted that it presents multiple synthetic charts about many of the elements it discusses.

✓ (Edmond) Desbonnet, *The Kings of Strength: A History of All Strong Men from Ancient Times to*

### *Our Own* \*

This book's title is misleading, in the sense it covers the stories of "strongmen" (and some "strongwomen" too) from the Antiquity up to the author's own time, in the early XX century, but he barely focuses on the older ones, and even for his own time the book's content varies widely, sometimes extending the biographies for multiple pages, and others barely presenting more than a paragraph. Interestingly, it does feature photographs for almost all the more recent people featured, but I couldn't find out if this already happened in the French edition, or was only added to the English translation.

- ✓ (Ferreira) Deusdado, *Quadros Açóricos: Lendas Chronographicas* \*

From the beginning of the XX century, this work presents many stories related to the Azores, at least some of which can be considered legends. The author somewhat romanticized the stories at hand.

- ✓ (Jonathan) Diamond, *Fatherless Sons: Healing the Legacy of Loss*

In this work the author tells readers his personal story

about the late-life loss of his father, but also provides extensive information for other people going through the same thing. Perhaps it isn't the best book on the subject, but at least it provides food for thought.

✓ (Baltasar) Dias, *Imperatriz Porcina*

A Portuguese adaptation of a medieval tale, which is pretty predictable and far from interesting. It'd certainly be more enjoyable if, instead of merely being named "porcine", the heroine was actually a pig (she isn't).

✓ (Baltasar) Dias, *Malícia das Mulheres*

An old work criticizing women, and also telling the story of how two of them decided to trick their respective husbands.

✓ (Paula Barata) Dias, *A tragédia cristã Christos Paschon: diálogo com Eurípides*

A research paper with a brief presentation of the *Christos Paschon*, including the problematic of its authorship. It also gives seven examples of how the verses from Euripides were reused in a (Christian) trilogy related to the Passion of the Christ.

- ✓ (Gisele) Díaz, *The Codex Borgia: A Full-Color Restoration of the Ancient Mexican Manuscript* \*

This unusual book essentially explains the content of the *Codex Borgia* and tries to reconstruct the beautiful drawings of the original in an amazing and colourful way. It's certainly not an introductory book on the whole subject of Ancient Mexican myths and legends, but if you're already familiar with those, this is a very interesting work to look at.

- (Manuel) Diaz de Arcaya, *El Basilisco de Urrialdo: Leyenda Alavesa del Siglo XIV* \*

- ✓ (Bernal) Diaz del Castillo, *The History of the Conquest of New Spain* \*

The oldest and arguably the most famous report of the conquests of Cortéz in Mexico, the author followed the whole trip and the conquests which took place during it. However, the work must naturally be taken with a significant grain of salt, since we can't be sure all the events unfolded as represented here, such as Montezuma's death.

- ✓ (Eleanor) Dickey, *Ancient Greek Scholarship A Guide to Finding, Reading, and Understanding Scholia, Commentaries, Lexica, and Grammatical Treatises, from Their Beginnings to the Byzantine Period*

This is an extremely interesting book for all of those who want to learn more about any of the aspects of classical scholarship mentioned directly in its title. It is, as far as I could find, the best book on the subject, and it appears to have been written with those who know little about it in mind.

- ✓ (Eleanor) Dickey, *The Colloquia of the Hermeneumata Pseudodositheana* (vol. I and II)

With an extended introduction and plenty of commentaries on each of the documents it translates, this is an unusual and yet very interesting work on the teaching "Colloquia" written in the Antiquity.

- ✓ (Eleanor) Dickey, *Learn Latin from the Romans\**

This is a Latin language manual. Apart from the usual explanations, here you can also find exercises with the twist they are taken from ancient study manuals, texts and epigraphic materials, etc. Although the first part

has nothing too innovative, this presence of classical material (as opposed to made-up texts) makes this quite an unusual and useful work.

- ✓ (Eleanor) Dickey, *Learning Latin the Ancient Way*

An unusual resource containing lots of information on how people used to learn Latin in the Antiquity.

Unfortunately, it doesn't make it possible for the reader to learn that language in the same way, as one could assume from its title – for that, see the other book above.

- ✓ Dictys of Crete, *Chronicle of the Trojan War*

Just like Dares' account, which was already mentioned before, this is a supposedly realistic version of the Trojan War, again based on the supposition that Homer's own report was a false one. It too had a significant impact in the Middle Ages.

- ✓ (Denis) Diderot, *Les Bijoux indiscrets* \*

An XVIII century romance about a sultan who obtains a magical ring with the ability to make women's vaginas talk. Although not entirely new, the idea is

intriguing, and the author develops it by what can be considered multiple individual paintings of life in a court. I did not particularly enjoy it, but some people may find it a bit funny.

✓ (Adolphe Napoléon) Didron, *Manuel*

*D'Iconographie Chretienne, Grecque Et Latine*

A very complete manual on how the themes of Christianity should be painted in churches. It seems to cover all the essential topics, but I was a little bit disappointed with the fact that the reference to some male saints doesn't go much above elements such as "Bearded", and some female ones – like Thecla – are barely described.

✓ (Charles) Dillaway, *Roman Antiquities, and*

*Ancient Mythology, for Classical Schools* \*

A simple introduction to the culture and mythology of Rome. I did not particularly enjoy it, but it may be a so-so asset if you know absolutely nothing about these topics yet.

✓ (Cidália) Dinis, *Henriqueta Emília da Conceição:*

*Dualidade Históricas e Literárias de uma Meretiz*



(1845-1874)

A research paper on the real-life story of Henriqueta, from Porto, best known for having cut the head of her dead (female) lover. First, it talks about what we really know regarding the real Henriqueta, and then it proceeds by focusing essentially on the fictional figure.

✓ Diodorus Siculus, *Bibliotheca Historica*

Despite the author's informative research in the I century BC, nowadays only this work's books 1-5 and 11-20 survive in a more complete form. I read specifically the initial ones (6 and 7 only remaining in fragments, but covering part of the Trojan War) because they extensively covered mythological subjects, while the following ones focus on more historical subjects.

If you're interested in either historical or mythological subjects, and you also manage to find an edition of the work which contains all the fragments, this can be an interesting option for you.

✓ Diogenes Laertius, *Lives and Opinions of the Eminent Philosophers*

This work not only narrates the lives of many

individual philosophers, but also contains some materials additional to them, such as short epistles, which makes the books which constitute it even more important. This is undoubtedly the work everyone has to read if they're interested in the philosophers who lived before this author's time, i.e. the III century AD.

- Diogenes The Cynic, *Fragments*
  
- ✓ Diogo de Couto, *Vida de D. Vasco da Gama*  
A short biography of the notable explorer Vasco da Gama, which only retells the main events and accomplishments of his life.
  
- Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 1-4<sup>13</sup>
  
- ✓ Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 5, *A Libyan Myth*  
This speech preserves an obscure myth from Libya, in which the hero Heracles, known among the Romans as

---

13 For the following sections, instead of presenting a list of almost 8 pages long only with titles, I decided to join together all the entries for which I could add no relevant information.

Hercules, has a minor intervention.

- Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 6-10
- ✓ Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 11, *Maintaining that Troy was not Captured*

For me, this was always one of the most fascinating of Dio's speeches. In it, he argues for a very uncommon version of the Trojan War, satirically pointing out the many plot holes and lies present in the two Homeric Poems – the biggest of which certainly being the unexpected fact that, at the very end, Troy was never even conquered at all!

It is a speech that gives plenty of room for debate, particularly around a central question – is a lie truly one if everyone takes it as true?

- Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 12-45 \*
- ✓ Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 52, *On Aeschylus and Sophocles and Euripides or The Bow of Philoctetes*

In this speech Dio compares three plays based on the same mythological subject. Since the ones of

Aeschylus and Euripides are both lost, this adds a lot of significant information to our knowledge of the missing plays.

✓ Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 53-61

This sequence features several speeches both on literary criticism (regarding Homer and Socrates) and mythological subjects (Agamemnon, Nestor, Achilles, Philoctetes, Nessus and Chryseis).

• Dio Chrysostom, *Discourses* 63-72

✓ Dio Chrysostom, *Encomium on Hair*

A short discourse praising hair, which should definitely be contrasted with Synesius' *Eulogy of Baldness*.

✓ (R. L.) Dione, *God Drives a Flying Saucer*

Quite a curious book, published in 1969, in which the author ultimately argues that God is actually an occupant of some UFO, and miracles are performed through technology and techniques that we just do not understand yet, e.g. Jesus was born through artificial insemination (and so Mary was really a virgin). Many other such strange claims are also made in this same

book, which even includes an extended chapter on the miracles of Fátima, here in Portugal.

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Dionysius the Areopagite, *Celestial Hierarchy*

An important work on angelology, presenting how the different categories of angels are organized. Its influence can be seen from the fact that, many centuries later, Thomas Aquinas himself followed ideas from this work in his *Summa Theologica*.

- ✓ Dionysius Epicus, Fragments

There are some extant fragments from the two epic poems of this Dionysius, titled the *Bassarica* and the *Gigantias*. They contain a very small number of mythological references, but nothing noteworthy.

- ✓ (Thomas M.) Disch, *The Brave Little Toaster: A Bedtime Story for Small Appliances*

Supposedly written for a younger audience, this meaningful and unusual story of a toaster, and some other companion appliances, which decide to find out what happened to their old owner, who hasn't used them in over a year. The plot is much interesting than

in the Disney movie of the same name, but – at least in the edition I read – unfortunately the book has very few pictures to illustrate the whole story.

- ✓ (Thomas M.) Disch, *The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars*

A sequel to the above. It has no pictures, but presents a story in which the old appliances, along with a few new friends, travel to Mars to stop an invasion from Populuxe appliances. It has some quaint elements here and there, but I felt this one was not as much for children as the previous, specially some of the jokes it contains.

- ✓ (A. R.) Disney, *A History of Portugal and the Portuguese Empire: From Beginnings to 1807, Volume I: Portugal*

A concise history of the country of Portugal. Some sections of it go way too much into details (e.g. the events which took place around the time of Lisbon's famous earthquake), while others appear to develop too quickly and will barely teach you anything (e.g. the times of the early kings of Portugal).

- ✓ (Mike) Dixon-Kennedy, *Encyclopedia of Russian & Slavic Myth and Legend* \*

This work contains extensive information on the subjects announced on its title, with the added benefit that some entries even report, in an extensive way, the plot of particular myths and legends. However, it also has some flaws here and there, with the most significant being the fact that the author does not explicitly tell us about his source for each individual entry; in fact, this absence is even stranger if you take into account that a very limited number of entries, for unknown reasons, do report those sources!

- (Robert) Dobbin, *The Cynic Philosophers from Diogenes to Julian*
- ✓ (Cory) Doctorow, *Enshittification: Why Everything Suddenly Got Worse and What to Do About It*

This book explains why the internet, and most tech companies in general, have grown worse across time.

- ✓ (Georges T.) Dodds, *Monkey-Spouse Sees*

*Children Murdered, Escapes to Freedom!*

An article trying to find out the ultimate source for the story of a woman who is stuck in an island, has offspring with a monkey, and later ends up escaping, only to see her offspring get killed. The author tracks it to an otherwise unknown *Anais de Portugal* of one "Castanheda", which seems to be an unknown work.

✓ (Aelius) Donatus, *Life of Virgil*

A short life of the famous poet Virgil, which may have been extensively based on a now-lost commentary by Suetonius.

✓ (Wendy) Doniger, *Hindu Myths* \*

In concept this could be a very interesting book, briefly introducing particular myths and then quoting how they are presented in the original texts, but I felt the introductions were far from satisfying and, more than adding to the quotes, even seem to detract from them.

✓ (Ignatius L.) Donnelly, *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* \*

Published in 1882, this work is most famous for having first popularised some ideas related to Atlantis in our



modern world. It is now outdated, and presents ideas that have since been disproved, but it is still a very culturally relevant work, especially if one is looking for how Atlantis, culturally speaking, turned into how we see it today.

- ✓ (Fred M.) Donner, *Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*

A book on the origins of Islam, explaining them in a simple way and with some occasional quotes for context. It definitely leaves plenty of space for additional and subsequent exploration on your own.

- ✓ (Frank Robert) Donovan, *Never on a broomstick*

I heard about this book through the "West Memphis Three" criminal case, and although it proposes to be a history of witchcraft, it is actually a very passable book, written from a purely biased standpoint, which almost never quotes any sources, takes forged documents as true, includes false information, and focuses for too long on witch persecutions, instead of the main historical facts one would expect to find. Since this is a hard book to find, it is just not worth the trouble of tracking down a copy.

✓ Dosiadas, *Altar*

This poem from Ancient Greece is notable for two things – the fact it was originally shaped in the form of an altar, and the fact it is short but completely crowded with obscure mythological references, in a way similar to Lycophron's *Alexandra*.

✓ (Alfred) Douglas, *The Tarot: The Origins, Meaning and Uses of the Cards* \*

The title for this book is significantly misleading. Although it does discuss the origins, meanings and uses of the cards, it concludes nothing significant in either of the first two areas. In fact, it just points out the obscure and uncertain origin of tarot, while giving out the mystical meanings of cards and describing them in one or two paragraphs, but without ever saying anything conclusive on why they are represented the way they are, as if they'd magically appeared in a cultural vacuum.

✓ (Spencer) Downing, *So Boring It Must Be True: Faux History and the Generation of Wonder at the Museum of Jurassic Technology*

This is a brief-ish introduction to the *Museum of Jurassic Technology*, in the US.

✓ (A. B.) Drachmann, *Atheism in Pagan Antiquity*  
A short account of people and beliefs from the Antiquity which we can consider as “atheists” in some sense, such as Xenophanes, Protagoras, Socrates or Euhemerus.

✓ (Patrick) Drazen, *A Gathering of Spirits: Japan's Ghost Story Tradition*

This book contains 100 ghost stories from Japan, coming both from significant literary works of the past (such as the *Tale of Genji*), and multiple anime and manga shows. However, what makes it particularly interesting is that the author takes his time to explain to a western audience the cultural nuances required to fully understand each of the stories, ensuring they can truly be understood even if you know absolutely nothing about Japanese culture.

✓ (Patrick) Drazen, *Anime Explosion!* \*

The first part of this book explains some of the cultural conventions used in Japanese anime. The second part

is a lot less interesting, as the author simply resumes some of the most famous shows.

- ✓ (Alice) Dreger, *Galileo's Middle Finger: Heretics, Activist, and the Search for Justice in Science*

A curious book about malpractice in Science, and about how people are often forced to abandon the truth and what is right.

- ✓ (Frederick) Drimmer, *Very Special People: The Struggles, Loves and Triumphs of Human Oddities*

This is a book on the once-so-called “freaks”, retelling their personal stories to the extent made possible by extant evidence. It contains both some happy and some sad stories, but it should be noted the author doesn’t take a critical stance, and so the reader is left wondering how true, or not, some elements of each story may be.

- ✓ (G. C.) Druce, *An account of the Murmekoleon, or Ant-lion*

A research paper summing up the features of the creature known as “Ant-lion”, which appears in several

bestiaries.

- (John) Dryden, *Don Sebastian, King of Portugal: A Tragedy* \*

- ✓ (Nguyen) Du, *The Tale of Kieu*

An XVIII century poem from Vietnam, about a woman who has to sell herself into slavery to help her family. She goes through many different kinds of suffering – as prophesied by the ghost of a dead woman – but eventually reunites with the man she loved.

- ✓ (Marco Daniel) Duarte, *A iconografia da Senhora de Fátima: da criação ex nihilo às composições plásticas dos artistas*

This research article essentially traces the origin and development of the representations of Our Lady of Fátima, presenting not only the more traditional images, but also some of the most unusual ones. Unfortunately, the author only presents photos for a very small subset, and so either the reader has to track them all down by themselves, or they won't know what statues he is talking about.

- ✓ Duarte de Sande, *Missão dos Embaixadores Japoneses*

A XVI century first-hand report on the travel of the Tensho Embassy to Europe. Its most significant element is perhaps the way in which the travels, places and events they went through are described, including how Lisboa was before its famous earthquake.

- ✓ (A. J.) Duarte Junior, *Henriqueta, ou Uma Heroína do Século XIX*

A romance based on the (real) story of Henriqueta, a woman from Porto best known for having stolen the head of her dead female lover. Naturally, this romance features way more fiction than fact, but it is arguably the most famous treatment of the story.

- ✓ Duarte Pacheco Pereira, *Esmeraldo de Situ Orbis*  
Published in 1506, this work describes the discoveries of the Portuguese along the coast of Africa. The author goes from place to place, following a logical order and providing geographical and navigational details. In a few occasions even presents curious elements of an anthropological nature. But, oddly, the work appears to be more famous for the fact it seems to contain a

reference to Brazil dating from a few years before it was officially discovered by the Portuguese.

- ✓ (Nathaniel E.) Dubin, *The Fabliaux: a new verse translation* \*

This work contains an english translation of 69 french medieval *fabliaux*. Unfortunately, they neither present the original text alongside them, nor do they have any significant number of explanatory notes. So, perhaps this is an edition for people who want to enjoy the texts by themselves (and, I might add, some of these short stories are indeed quite pleasant), but who are also able to effectively understand them in context.

- (Ismo) Dunderberg, *Beyond Gnosticism: Myth, Lifestyle, and Society in the School of Valentinus*\*

- ✓ (Wilson Van) Dusen, *The Presence of Spirits in Madness*

The essential idea behind this book is truly fascinating, since this Psychologist tried to talk to the mental illusions of his patients and see what he could learn from them and about them. Unfortunately, he tells us

little about the specifics of the conversations he had, instead just using this background to compare what he obtained with the philosophies of Swedenborg. So, absolutely great idea for a book, but the way he did it completely misses the mark, over-promising too much and under-delivering quite a lot.

✓ (Maria) Dzielska, *Apollonius of Tyana in Legend and History* \*

This work recaps what we can actually know about Apollonius based on the literary sources which reached us.



## 6- Section E

- ✓ (Jim) Eaton, *Ghosts Caught on Film 2, Photographs of the Unexplained* \*

Seemingly a sequel to a similar book by a different compiler, this presents photos of supposed ghosts, and paranormal entities, along with the story behind the photos themselves. I genuinely felt the previous book, by Melvyn J. Willin, was a lot better, in the sense it tried to provide dates for the photos and even analyse them a bit in a more unbiased way.

- ✓ Edgar Allan Poe, *The Thousand-and-second Tale of Scheherazade*

A short story, alike of a sequel to *Arabian Nights*, where the narrator weaves a new final journey of Sinbad the Sailor, where many modern marvels are presented, only to have her king discard them all away as impossible fantasies. It is specially noteworthy for that satirical ending, as if to say that what exists today is much more fantastic than the magical allusions of the past.

- ✓ (Michael) Edmonds, *Out of the Northwoods: The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan* \*

On the origin and evolution of the legends associated with the American Paul Bunyan. It contains, at the very end, a collection of all the original tales, as they appeared in the oldest textual sources available to us.

- ✓ (Luís) Edmundo, *O Rio de Janeiro no Tempo dos Vice-Reis (1763 – 1808)* \*

A portrayal of many aspects of life in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in the second half of the XVIII century. Particularly interesting is the book's presentation of two festivals which were once common in Portugal but are now almost completely forgotten in the mainland.

- ✓ (Frank) Edwards, *Strange People* \*

One of the many sequels to the book below, this one presents brief stories related to human beings with some strange abilities or powers, including but not limited to Spiritism.

- ✓ (Frank) Edwards, *Stranger Than Science* \*

From 1959, this is a compilation of strange stories

essentially connected to the US, but with a few from also all over the world, usually retold in three or four pages.

- ✓ (J.) Edwin, *A short history of classical scholarship from the sixth century BC to the present day* \*

Published in the very beginning of the XX century, this is one of those books in which the title perfectly captures what it contains. It's not much of an enjoyable book, but it does fulfil its essential purpose.

- ✓ (Elsie Spicer) Eells, *The Islands of Magic: Legends, Folk and Fairy Tales from the Azores* \*

As the title easily expresses, this work contains traditional stories from the Azores. At least one of them, the very first one, continues to be famous in our own day and age.

- ✓ (Elsie Spicer) Eells, *Tales of Enchantment from Spain*

A small collection of tales from Spain, all of which have in common the fact that they extensively feature fantastic and magical elements. Most of them are very

pleasing (even for children), and some of their elements are really intriguing, such as the bird which laid diamonds.

- ✓ (James C.) Egbert Jr., *Introduction to the Study of Latin Inscriptions*

Although old, it is still quite a notable work on the study of Latin Epigraphy, introducing the reader to the subject and how to read inscriptions from the Roman Antiquity. I liked it, but it definitely needs at least some basic knowledge of Latin, since the author provides many examples of each type of inscription but does not complement them with any translations at all.

- ✓ (B.) Ehrman, *Armageddon: What the Bible Really Says About the End*

About the biblical "Book of Revelation", the author goes through it, explains what it really means, how it has been read across the centuries, but also what it doesn't mean, and how this contrast shaped Christianity up to our own day and age. Certainly informative if you're interested in the biblical book at hand, but I also felt that some sections were overly long and went too far away from the main topic.

- ✓ (B.) Ehrman, *Heaven And Hell: A History of the Afterlife*

On the origin and development of the idea of an afterlife in western culture and Christianity. Although the topic is undoubtedly interesting, I couldn't help but feeling the author did not explain the whole subject in a way fit for all readers... you may be able to understand the subject, yes, but it is not a particularly pleasing book to read, even if you're very interested in the topic itself.

- (B.) Ehrman, *Heracleon, Origen, and the text of the Fourth Gospel*<sup>14</sup>
- (B.) Ehrman, *Jesus Before the Gospels*

---

14 Although Professor Ehrman's books feature a plethora of information presented in a way fit for all kinds of non-specialized audiences, he does frequently repeat his own information, which makes it particularly difficult to remember what he said in each of his books. If you're interested in any of these, your best option is certainly reading about them in advance, so you'll know what to expect from each individual work.

- (B.) Ehrman, *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible*
- ✓ (B.) Ehrman, *Journeys to Heaven and Hell: Tours of the Afterlife in the Early Christian Tradition*

I felt a bit tricked over this work's title, as I expected to find a book on the history of afterlife journeys in Christianity. Instead, it introduces readers to the literary and cultural context in which those journeys appeared in Classical Antiquity, and then speaks exclusively about the earliest ones directly related to Christianity.

- (B.) Ehrman, *Lost Scriptures: Books that Did Not Make it Into the New Testament* \*
- ✓ (B.) Ehrman, *The Apocryphal Gospels: Texts and Translations* \*

Some translations of Apocryphal Gospels, with an introduction to each text and abundant notes.

Although not all texts are complete, the editors tried to retain the most important sequences from each one.

- (B.) Ehrman, *Orthodox Corruption of Scripture: The Effect of Early Christological Controversies on the Text of the New Testament* \*
- (B.) Ehrman, *The Triumph of Christianity*
- ✓ (Donnie) Eichar, *Dead Mountain: The Untold True Story of the Dyalto Pass Incident*

An investigation of the events related to the so-called “Dyalto Pass Incident”, written by an American. Perhaps the final chapters, where he presents his theory, are interesting to those exploring the occurrence, but overall I felt the book wasn’t very interesting, particularly since it fuses three different timelines across its chapters, making it a bit harder to follow the plot, especially since one of said timelines, describing the final days of the nine people who ended up dead, appears to be more fictional than true.

- ✓ Einhard, *The Life of Charlemagne*

An extensive life of Charlemagne, written by someone who knew him personally and, for that reason, was certainly well informed about who he was writing about.

- ✓ (Daniel) Eisenberg, *Romances of Chivalry in the Spanish Golden Age*

Essentially, it is a very general introduction to the subject, along with some of its relationships with the famous *Don Quixote*. It also contains some general considerations regarding the romances of chivalry produced in Spain.

- (Johann Andreas) Eisenmenger, *The Traditions of the Jews, with the Expositions and Doctrines of the Rabbins* \*

- ✓ (Jack) El-Hai, *Lost Minnesota: Stories of Vanished Places* \*

A simple yet interesting book, about significant places which have vanished in the state of Minnesota. For each of them, the author retells their story in 1-3 pages, and presents at least one photograph of them, so the reader can also know what they were all about.

- ✓ (Nathan T.) Elkins, *A Monument to Dynasty and Death: The Story of Rome's Colosseum and the Emperors Who Built It*

I came across this work while trying to search for one



on the history of the Colosseum. It defines itself as being “squarely on the significance of the Colosseum and its spectacles during the rule of the Flavian emperors”, and so presents a lot of information on that aspect of the topic, but very few on its history across the ages (which was what I was originally look for). However, it does have an extensive listing of other literary sources about the same topic near the end, which allowed me to find many other relevant books on the subject.

✓ Elliot Rodger, *My Twisted World: The Story of Elliot Rodger*

An autobiography written by a young man connected with the “incel” movement. The work itself is very unintentionally hilarious, with the author contrastingly seeing himself as the greatest of all men, but also endlessly complaining he could never get a girlfriend or have sex. Oddly, and according to the text, he never seems to have done any kind of real effort to meet anyone, instead just blaming all women for his double inability.

✓ (J.K.) Elliott, *The Apocryphal New Testament* \*

A collection of some apocryphal texts in translation (along with short summaries of others, and fragments of lost ones), with each section being introduced with a commentary featuring almost everything you need to know in order to understand each work.

- ✓ (Bill) Ellis, *De Legendis Urbis: Modern Legends in Ancient Rome*

A short article on the potential relationship of a Roman urban legend which still seems to occur in our own day and age.

- ✓ Elvira Cunha de Azevedo Silva Mea, *Nossa Senhora em Processos da Inquisição*

This research paper presents some of the cases of the Portuguese Inquisition in which the offended party is the Virgin Mary. The reference is admittedly incomplete, but the author does briefly present some cases, even quoting the original sources for them.

- ✓ (Michael) Ende, *The Neverending Story*

Best known for having inspired two good movies (and a horrible one), this is an unusual fiction book in which reality and fiction intersect in multiple ways. The book

does add some important information to the movies, including the real reason behind its title, and its second half is an entirely new story which does add a lot to the plot, essentially by developing the idea that good wishes may sometimes have bad results.

✓      Enheduanna, *Fragments*

Seemingly by the oldest author whose name we still know today, Enheduanna was a priest of the goddess Inana, and some fragments from her works, where this divine figure is a natural constant, have reached us.

✓      Enheduanna, *Temple Hymns*

By the same author, we also have remains of hymns related to several other figures, apparently gods. They occasionally seem to allude to potential mythological events. However, given the fact we've lost most of the myths and legends from 4300 years ago, such possibility is now unverifiable.

✓      Ennius, *Annales*      (f)

The *Annales* of Ennius were once the most famous Latin epic poem, until the *Aeneid* appeared – Macrobius' *Saturnalia* even dedicates a long sequence

to the poetic relationship between the two works. Unfortunately, the opposition of Virgil's epic also led to the subsequent disappearance of its predecessor, but there are still many fragments of the original, compiled in several different editions, which can be studied for cultural reasons; in fact, we even know the work's initial words and sequences, and that it presented the idea that Homer had been reborn in Ennius, and would now write a whole new epic.

- ✓ Ephrem of Edessa(?), *The Book of the Cave of Treasures*

A succinct history from the beginning of the world up to the time of the death of Jesus Christ. Although most of it is about as interesting as this brief description may lead you to believe, the work also preserves mentions to several legendary events associated with Judaism and Christianity, and even contains, near the end, a listing of parallelisms between actions and events from the Old Testament and the New one.

- ✓ Epicharmus of Syracuse, Fragments

Although few fragments from his work seem to have reached us, they are potentially important for

assessing the idea that Plato may have copied his ideas from a predecessor. Most of these fragments are just one or two phrases long, essentially small adages, but they're still interesting and thought-provoking nonetheless.

- Epiphanius of Salamis, *De Fide*

✓ Epiphanius of Salamis, *Panarion* \*

An exposition on the many heresies of Christianity. What is particularly interesting in this one is that it also considers as "heresies" Judaism and other so-called sects which rose even before the new doctrine, alongside with others which are almost certainly false or misrepresented. Despite that potential flaw, it preserves lots of useful information on many of the sects it portrays.

✓ Erasmus, *Adagia*

This *Book of Adages* is, in my personal opinion, one of the most interesting and informative books I ever had access to. There are many editions of it, but in the biggest one the author reports over 4000 adages (or, to use a more common word, "proverbs"), explains

their usage and gives examples of where they came from, quoting extensively from Ancient authorities. I don't think he ever quotes from any sources which are now lost to us, but his display of learning is extremely informative, and he produced what is likely the most complete work on proverbs coming from the Antiquity; although there were several compilations produced before (or around) the Middle Ages and still available to us nowadays, such as Zenobius', it seems none of them goes to this depth in also explaining and providing more information on each of them.

✓ Erasmus, *Ciceronianus*

A work attacking those who felt that Cicero's Latin was the best thing ever, and that they should mirror it in their own scholarly language.

✓ (Pseudo-)Eratosthenes, *Katasterismoi* (f?)

Although only available in fragments, this work preserves the mythological origins of some constellations, along with some information on their composition in the skies. These origins do not always match the ones present in other works, e.g. this author does not think that the Sagittarius is a centaur.

✓ Erich von Daniken, *Chariots of the Gods?*

Famous as the book which most popularized the "Ancient Astronauts" theory, this is certainly an intriguing read even if you're not yet familiar with all the topics the author talks about. However, it should equally be noted that most of the ideas presented here were debunked across time.

✓ Erich von Daniken, *Confessions of an Egyptologist*

One of the author's latest books, it presents the supposedly true story of a friend he met in Egypt and which, at the age of 16, found himself in some mysterious area under the pyramids of Saqqara. He is very conveniently now dead, but in the strangest part of this book, the author's friend loses his virginity to a mysterious lady, who was seemingly already expecting him and addressed him by name, in some pyramid floor. There are evident reasons for scepticism over the whole incident, as it is common in these books, with more possible truths being obscured by strange episodes like those.

✓ Erich von Daniken, *Gold of the Gods*

This work deserves to be noted because the author claims he had seen by himself many mysterious things, which could completely change human history, inside the "Cueva de los Tayos" in Ecuador.. which would be amazing, if it wasn't for the fact he later admitted to have "embellished" the whole thing. After that, who can believe this book at all?!

✓ Erich von Daniken, *Remnants of the Gods* \*

Supposedly presenting the physical remains of the old gods in some european countries and North Africa, this book is far from interesting, but it does contain a large number of images from said places. If it wasn't for those, this book would be almost completely worthless.

• Eucherius of Lyons, *De Contemptu Mundi* \*

✓ Euclid, *Elements* \*

This is undoubtedly one of those books which may have changed the world, but it has nothing of relevance when it comes to the Greek Myths; instead, it's all about Geometry.



✓ Eunapius, *Lives of the Philosophers and Sophists*

A very brief reference to the lives of some philosophers and sophists, starting with a succinct reference to those authors who also wrote about them.

✓ Euripides, *Alcestis*

One of my favourite mythical plots, about how Alcestis gave her own life for the sake of her husband. Through the influence of Heracles he does get her back, but the whole idea behind this myth is profoundly interesting and provides plenty of room for debate, particularly on the subject of the duties we have towards those we genuinely love.

✓ Euripides, *Andromache*

A tragedy depicting Andromache's life after the end of the Trojan War.

✓ Euripides, *Bacchae*

Regarding the myth of Dionysus and Pentheus.

• Euripides, *Children of Heracles*

✓ Euripides, *Cyclops*

This is the only fully extant satyr play, deserving to be read at least on that basis.

✓ Euripides, *Electra*

On the death of Aegisthus and Clytemnestra by Electra and Orestes, both characters here playing a significant role in that murder.

✓ Euripides, *Hecuba*

Presenting Hecuba's life after the end of the Trojan War. It can be divided into two essential plot lines – one regarding Hecuba and her need to avenge the murder of Polymestor, her youngest son; and one about the sacrifice of her daughter Polyxena at the grave of Achilles.

✓ Euripides, *Helen*

This is the most famous extant text portraying the idea that Helen wasn't in Troy during the famous war; instead, in this version only a ghostly form was there, with the real Helen instead living in Egypt at the time. Eventually Menelaus does get her back, but only when he is already coming back home from Troy.

- Euripides, *Heracles*

- ✓ Euripides, *Hippolytus*

On the passion that Phaedra had for Hippolytus, her husband's son from a previous wife.

- ✓ Euripides, *Ion*

What can I tell you about this play... it's about a less known mythical story, in which Ion is looking for his true parents.

- ✓ Euripides, *Iphigenia in Aulis*

Placed way before the Trojan War, and presenting the plot that leads into Iphigenia's "sacrifice" in Aulis<sup>15</sup>, which was a requirement for the Greeks to be able to sail to Troy.

- ✓ Euripides, *Iphigenia in Tauris*

After the Trojan War, here Iphigenia meets her brother

---

15 That she wasn't *really* sacrificed, at least in this one version of the story, can be inferred from the plot of *Iphigenia in Tauris*.

once again, after he finds out that she wasn't really dead after the supposed sacrifice at Aulis.

✓ Euripides, *Medea*

This one is certainly the most popular tragic representation of the myth of Medea. Here, it is the heroine who kills her own offspring to cause pain to Jason, her former lover and father of the children... but this appears to be an innovation (or popularization) by Euripides, since there were mythical versions previous to this one in which the same children were killed by other people (particularly the citizens of the Corinth), after the children had played a significant role in a murder of the local royal family. Although those other plays are no longer extant in a complete form, references to them allow us to realize that Euripides' account of the mythical episode was not the only one known in the Antiquity, despite its popularity and influence in later plays.

✓ Euripides, *Orestes*

In a supposed mythical chronology, this play can be placed after Orestes' murder of his mother but before he is atoned for that same crime.

✓ Euripides, *Phoenician Women*

Presenting a central part of the myth of the “Seven Against Thebes”, particularly the moment in which the seven main heroes meet at the city’s gates, followed by the battle between the two sons of Oedipus.

✓ Euripides, *Rhesus*

Taking place during the Trojan War and presenting the same events which are depicted in book 10 of the *Iliad*. Strangely enough, this sequence may not have occurred in the original epic, and Euripides’ authorship of this play has equally been doubted.

• Euripides, *Suppliants*

✓ Euripides, *Trojan Women*

About the final moments of the Trojan War, just before the Greeks return to the ships and travel back home.

✓ Eusebius of Caesarea, *Against Hierocles*

This Hierocles wrote a work on Apollonius of Tyana; Eusebius’ one was written against him and his ideas, attempting to prove that Apollonius wasn’t as much of

a divine figure as the pagans often wanted to believe.

✓ Eusebius of Caesarea, *Church History*

Perhaps among this author's most famous works. The title perfectly describes what it contains, a history of the church from the time of Jesus up to the author's own age in the IV century AD. Other authors later expanded it, apparently after the original author's death.

✓ Eusebius of Caesarea, *Life of Constantine*

Eusebius' biography of Constantine the Great is likely more crowded with compliments than with absolute truths, but it is particularly famous for preserving a version of what happened in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, which led to the Christian conversion of the Emperor.

✓ Eusebius of Caesarea, *Preparation for the Gospel* \*

This work's title may lead you to think of a very different kind of content, but it is essentially a work in which Eusebius first attempts to show the errors of the pagan religions by quoting directly from pagan

authors, and then proceeds by preparing readers for the new religion by talking about a few relevant aspects of Judaism.

Although Eusebius quotes from many authors and works now lost to us, the first six books are particularly interesting for the study of myths and religious beliefs; Oenomaus of Gadara's arguments against fate and oracles, present in the fifth and sixth books, deserve to be noted here, due to the fact they're almost funny and were written because that author himself was once supposedly tricked by an oracle's (false) message.

- ✓ Eustathios Makrembolites, *Hysmine and Hysminias*

A Byzantine novel containing the elements typical of the genre, including the usual kidnapping by pirates. It should be noted, though, for a beautiful ekphrasis of two paintings described early in the work, for its fast pace, and also for the charming way in which the main character describes his feelings and blossoming love all across the work.

- ✓ Eutropius, *Abridgement of Roman History*

An abridged history of the western world, from the founding of Rome up to the author's own time in the IV century AD.

✓ Evagrius, *Dialogue of Simon and Theophilus* \*  
Apparently the oldest of its genre in Latin, this work presents a Jew asking a Christian about the latter's faith, and eventually converting to it. The work itself preserves many quotations from the original texts, specially from what could be called the "Old Testament".

✓ Evagrius Ponticus, *Antirrhetikos*  
Written in the second half of the IV century AD, this work presents some of the thoughts – or metaphorical demons – that monks faced in their solitude, and tries to combat each of them by suggesting their focus their mind in specific passages by the Bible. Curiously, this whole idea seems to be an origin of the "Seven Deadly Sins" – the author still presents eight here.

✓ (Richard J.) Evans, *The Hitler Conspiracies* \*  
This book presents a small number of "conspiracies", or legends, associated with Hitler, Nazism and World



War II, but explores them in a very detailed way, from their origins and their development up to their importance in our world of today. Unfortunately, I also felt that at least one of the chapters is incomplete, presenting a partially biased report of the events, which never presents readers with, for example, the curious role of Kaufman's *Germany Must Perish!* in the killing of the Jews.

✓ (H. G.) Evelyn-White, *Hesiod, Homeric Hymns, and Homerica*

Although this old volume is now superseded by a more recent edition by M. L. West (which contains new fragments of the *Homerica* kind), the previous one is freely available online.



## 7- Section F

- (Cristóvão) Falcão, *Crisfal* \*
- ✓ (Lionel) Fanthorpe, *The World's Greatest Unsolved Mysteries* \*

Well, this work does present some of the world's famous unsolved mysteries, but the authors approach said subjects in a very inconsistent way, either devoting too long to secondary points, or completely ignoring some important ones. Overall, yes, you can find out about said mysteries from this book, but not in a very pleasing or interesting way.

- ✓ (M.) Fantuzzi, *The Greek Epic Cycle and its Ancient Reception*

A recent volume on the Epic Cycle, containing the most up to date information on the subject, despite the fact it doesn't provide you all the answers you'd expect to find in it.

- ✓ (Christopher A.) Faraone, *Ancient Greek Love Magic*

Essentially a book on how love magic was used back in Ancient Greek culture. Although the author presents many intriguing ideas, one would expect a book with this name to feature many examples of actual spells. Instead, when it does, they're usually brief and just included here to illustrate some specific points.

✓ (Maria Helena) Farelli, *A Bruxa de Évora*

I obtained a copy of this book hoping it would contain the real story of one "Bruxa [de] Évora" known in Brazilian culture. Instead, this is an almost completely fictional book, filled with incorrect and sometimes intentionally misleading information. A complete waste of time.

✓ (Bryan) Farha, *Pseudoscience and Deception: The Smoke and Mirrors of Paranormal Claims* \*

This work purporting to dispel paranormal claims is composed by many independent articles of varying degrees and quality. A few of them are interesting, but most tend to be far from interesting even if you want to know more about the topics at hand.

- (Rui Tavares de) Faria, *O Conto Popular*

## Português

- ✓ (Padre Manoel Rodrigues de) Faria, *A Cintriada, ou Poema Descritivo de Cintra*

Published in 1846, this was supposed to be a poem about the many beauties of the area of Sintra, in Portugal, but its verses are, in my view, far from interesting or pleasing.

- ✓ (Manuel Severim de) Faria, *Dicionário das Antiguidades de Portugal*

Seemingly from the XVII century and quite a rare (unpublished?) work, this Portuguese work contains cultural information regarding the country's past, including many entries on some of the oldest families from the country. Each entry is generally short, and arguably not as informative as readers would probably desire, but a few of them do occasionally feature intriguing bits of information.

- ✓ (Helen) Farley, *A Cultural History of Tarot: From Entertainment to Esotericism* \*

Overpriced and way overrated, this book does make some points on the history of Tarot but also frequently

tries to stick to the author's own ideas in a way that becomes almost absurd, at one point trying to link the meaning of all the cards to the personal history of the Visconti-Sforza family, even when such connection is way too far-fetched.

✓ (Michael) Farquhar, *A Treasury of Deception* \*

A book on historical frauds and deceptions, all of them very briefly retold by the author and categorised in multiple thematic sections.

✓ (J. A.) Farrer, *Literary Forgeries*

Published in the beginning of the XX century, this work briefly retells the stories behind Europe's most famous literary forgeries, from the Antiquity to the author's own day and age.

✓ (Fernando Mendonça) Fava, *Mito Sebastico: Realidade e Supra-realidade*

This research paper succinctly traces the birth, development and eventual fall of the Portuguese myth of "Sebastianismo".

✓ FBI, *[File on] Orenthal James Simpson (OJ*

*Simpson)*

This file, as released through the FOIA, essentially presents some evidence related to his famous case. Nothing is too impressive here, perhaps with the exclusion of some very strange pieces of information the investigators have received, and which the file even reproduces.

- ✓ (Kenneth L.) Feder, *Encyclopedia of Dubious Archaeology: From Atlantis to Walam Olum*

A lot more interesting than its name implies, this book presents many examples of not-so-real archaeological findings and figures related to them, and complements that information with at least one resource that readers can consult if they want to learn more about each of the topics at hand. Since the author even tells some personal stories here and there, this is a kind of encyclopedia you can even read entry by entry, if you find the topics at hand as fascinating as I do.

- ✓ (Kenneth L.) Feder, *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*

This is quite an interesting work about the scientific

method, presenting a few case studies which definitely put the reader thinking about how certain – or not – some ideas are.

- ✓ (Christopher R.) Fee, *American Myths, Legends and Tall Tales* \*

A massive encyclopedia on topics from the USA, with each entry containing not only extensive information, but also bibliography associated with it and, sometimes, even some primary sources. Overall, it is a very interesting work, but it does have a small flaw – sometimes, when mentioning physical locations, such as statues and houses, the authors do not always present a photo of them.

- ✓ (Jules) Feiffer, *The Great Comic Book Heroes*  
Quite a misleading title, since this book presents some introduction chapters sharing the author's own experience with his old comics, and then presents one or two adventures from the main characters of the comics' Golden Age, with just a single page for Captain Marvel. Overall, far from interesting, even if you are a significant fan of comics.



- (Maria) Feio, *Antigas aparições de nossa Senhora em Fátima*
- ✓ (Filipa Jardim Duarte) Felisberto, *Fado... um Estado de Alma*

A master thesis on “fado” (the portuguese song style), including its supposed origin, evolution, and psychological aspects. That last aspect, which is actually the focus of this thesis, is too short and in my view not as interesting as the content of the previous chapters.

- ✓ (Heinz Insu) Fenkl, *The Korean Myths: A Guide to the Gods, Heroes and Legends*

I feel this is one of those books that appears to overpromise and under-deliver, since it presents little truly informative content on the hinted subjects, but a lot more on Korean culture and history. Therefore, perhaps it would have been much better, and less misleading, to define this as an introduction to Korean culture, with very limited of its mythology being presented here.

- ✓ Ferdowsi, *Shahnameh* \*

A seemingly famous epic poem from Iran, it retells the story of Persia from the beginning of the world up to the moment in which it was conquered by the Muslims in the VII century AD. It contains significant magical and legendary elements, akin of the ones presented in other eastern works, such as *One Thousand and One Nights*.

- ✓ (Ian Stuart) Ferguson, *The Evolution of a Legend (...)*

A fairly short master thesis, comparing how the same character of Tamamo no Mae was adapted in two different works. It also features a translation of a japanese work by Seiseisai Kyoden, "The Spinning Wheel and the Nine-Tailed Fox".

- (Sian) Ferguson, *Understanding the Relationship Between Autism and Depression*

- ✓ (Gonzalo) Fernández, *La Cristianización de Alguns Elementos del Paganismo Romano*

A very short research paper briefly alluding to some limited changes that Christianity inflicted on Paganism, but presenting nothing too substantial.

✓ Fernando de Rojas, *La Celestina*

Also known as the *Tragicomedia de Calisto y Melibea*, this XVI century work, very similar to a play, from Spain presents a sometimes playful, sometimes serious and philosophic, story of two lovers who end up connected through the help of the titular witch. The ending is notable for its partial unexpectedness, given the comic element of many of the plot's sequences.

✓ (António) Ferreira, *A Castro*

This is likely the most famous and beautiful portuguese tragedy about the native legend of Pedro and Inês. It narrates the essential points of the story, and does so in quite a human and tearful way, although exempting the king from any blame regarding Castro's death.

✓ (António) Ferreira, *Epitáfios*

A small number of epitaphs for kings of Portugal and other important figures, some of them even from the author's own time.

✓ (António) Ferreira, *História de Santa Comba dos Valles*

This poem retells the story of Saint Comba, a figure of some noteworthiness in Portugal. Personally, I did not like the poem itself very much, but it does capture the essential spirit of the saint's story.

- ✓ (Fernando Bandeira) Ferreira, *Nótula Acerca da Ermida de S. Mamede de Janas*

Some general notes regarding whether the hermitage of Mamede de Janas, in Sintra (Portugal), was formerly a roman temple or not. The author makes some good points, but alleged archaeological digs which took place afterwards seem to disprove him.

- (Luísa) Ferreira, *Mobilidade poética na Grécia Antiga – uma leitura da obra de Simonides* \*
- (Manuel) Ferro, *The Gaticanea (Cattydoggymachia), by João Jorge de Carvalho, a Portuguese Mock-heroic Narrative Poem of the 18th Century: Between Intertextuality, Pastiche and Parody*
- ✓ (Leon) Festinger, *When Prophecy Fails*

A rather unusual work where the author and some of his colleagues infiltrated what can be called a cult and

tried to study what would happen once one of the group's notable prophecies for the future failed. It mostly focuses on the "before", but the final chapters also approach the "after", and how the developments at hand changed everyone involved.

- ✓ (Maria do Céu) Fialho, *Magia e Superstição no Mediterrâneo Antigo* \*

Edited by one of my professors, this work contains some random articles on the subject of magic in the Classical Antiquity.

- ✓ Fibonacci, *Liber Abaci* \*

Best known as the one work which brought arabic numerals to Europe, it notably explains how to use them, and even presents multiple mathematical problems which the author solves using them, in order to show how much better said numerals are over the older ones of the Romans.

- ✓ (Frederico Francisco de La) Figanière, *Memórias das Rainhas de Portugal: D. Theresa – Santa Isabel* \*

I assumed this book contained legends regarding the

first queens of Portugal. Instead, it tells some of the events related to them, but very few legends. An exception can be seen at the end of the book, where the author reports some of legends associated with Saint Isabel.

✓ (Lúcio Reis) Filho, *Na Trilha do Corpo-Seco*

A research paper on the brazilian legend of the Corpo-Seco, a sort of local undead creature. The author also introduces his main topic by presenting other undead creatures significant to the context of this creature from Brazil.

✓ (Rosa Maria Canarim Rodrigues) Fina, *Portugal nocturno e a ameaça do dia. A ideia de noite na cultura portuguesa (séculos XVIII a XX)* \*

A PhD thesis on the night in the culture of Portugal, notable for the fact one of its chapters reports on local myths and legends associated with the night.

✓ (P.) Finglass, *How Stesichorus began his sack of Troy*

This is, evidently, a research article on how the poet Stesichorus began one of his most famous

compositions, based on recently-found fragments.

✓ (P.) Finglass, *Stesichorus in Context*

A collection of writings regarding the context of the works of Stesichorus.

✓ (P.) Finglass, *Stesichorus: The Poems*

An apparently complete compilation of the fragments of the many poems written by Stesichorus. Although it provides extensive information on each work and commentaries on their extant sequences, it does not feature any translations of those into English, unlike I expected.

✓ (Michael) Finkel, *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit*

Telling the story of a man who lived in isolation for about 27 years, for me this book is noteworthy for the fact the author seems to literally chase Christopher Knight, the hermit at hand, to a point he even seems to be stalking him when, in fact, he just wanted to be left alone.

• (Margalit) Finkelberg, *Regional Texts and the*

*Circulation of Books: the Case of Homer*

- ✓ (Jack) Finney, *Forgotten News: The Crime of the Century and Other Lost Stories* \*

Although the idea behind this book is quite an interesting one – it features old news stories that were once notable but now almost completely forgotten – only the initial chapter, on the case of Emma Cunningham, will likely intrigue most readers. The remaining chapters were, at least to me, far from amusing or interesting.

- ✓ (Jim) Fisher, *Ten Percent of Nothing: The Case of the Literary Agent from Hell*

A very unusual non-fiction book, detailing the nefarious actions of a fake literary agent from the US. The whole story is here connected with that of some of the people she impacted, and written in a way that will keep you reading page after page, as more and more of her misdeeds unfold.

- (Ric) Flair, *Ric Flair: To Be The Man*
- (Ric) Flair, *Second Nature: The Legacy of Ric Flair and the Rise of Charlotte*



- ✓ (Manfred P.) Fleischer, *'Are Women Human?' - The Debate of 1595 Between Valens Acidalius and Simon Geddicus*

This research paper presents the curious debate and contains contextual information about it, but regrettably it does not feature all the arguments for and against the then-satirical question. The author presents a few, just as a example, but that is basically it.

- ✓ (Anatoly T.) Fomenko, *History: Fiction or Science?* \*

Probably one of the craziest books I ever had access to, even more given the fact it goes on and on for multiple volumes. So, in this work the author defends that common chronologies accepted by pretty much everyone are wrong, that many classical works were forged in the Middle Ages, etc. One could definitely consider the whole idea, if it wasn't for the fact that some of his arguments are incredibly and absurdly wrong, e.g. that the meaning of roman numerals changed with time; that in the Middle Ages and beyond some scenes were represented with places and gear

from those epochs because they actually happened at that time; or that small coincidences actually have a much bigger meaning hiding behind them. I read the entire first volume exclusively to see how crazy it really got, and I must admit it felt like a huge waste of time. Don't waste yours with this series of books, unless you can find it in a local library and you want to read something really crazy in a theory filled with endless holes!

- ✓ (Manoel António da) Fonseca, *O Sebastianista Furioso, Contra o Livro Intitulado Os Sebastianistas*

A short refutation, in the form of a dialogue, of José Agostinho de Macedo's *Os Sebastianistas*. A simple work, but which essentially focuses on fighting back the main elements of that other author's ideas.

- ✓ (Joseph) Fontenrose, *The Cult and Myth of Pyrrhos at Delphi*

Regarding the final part of the myth of Pyrrhus, the son of Achilles, and his death at Delphi. Although the author makes extensive comments on the myth in itself, some of his theories regarding the whole story

also seem very far-fetched.

✓ (Joseph) Fontenrose, *The Delphic Oracle*

The best thing about this work is that apart from being a dissertation on the Delphic Oracle, it also contains a full catalogue of responses given at the site, both the mythical ones and the more realistic ones.

✓ (G. W.) Foote, *Crimes of Christianity*

On the "crimes", or more generally "bad things", which Christianity did between its very beginning and the time of the Crusades. Although I heard the work also has a continuation, all the way to the XIX century, I was ultimately unable to find a copy of that alleged second volume.

✓ (S.) Forbes, *Rambles in Rome*

Written near the end of the XIX century, it presents an interesting reference to many of the places you could (and probably still can) visit in Rome and its surroundings.

✓ (Charles) Fort, *The Book of the Damned*

\*

This book from the early XX century is arguably one of the most boring I ever had access to, simply presenting reports of strange phenomena which took place all over the world. However, the subject is exposed in a way that is really, really uninteresting, and I had to stop reading at after around 100 pages.

- ✓ (Michael Dylan) Foster, *The Book of Yokai: Mysterious Creatures of Japanese Folklore*

An almost-scholarly work on *yokai*, placing them into the cultural context they appeared in and also describing what information we have on each of them, with extensive literary sources being provided by the author, for those who want to explore the subject even further.

- ✓ (Thomas C.) Foster, *How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading Between the Lines*

Overall, this is a fairly simple book on how to read and interpret fictional literature. Although the author takes readers through the essential steps of it, he also provides tons of examples that readers will unlikely be familiar with, even if they are as well-read as I am.

This element makes the book seem more like an enormous self-exhibition of knowledge than a teaching experience pleasant for readers.

- ✓ Fouquart de Cambray, *Les Evangiles des Quenouilles*

A XV century French collection of popular beliefs, put in the mouth of ladies. This is seemingly a satirical work, or at least the compilers make it sound so, since many of the beliefs presented here are even completely contradictory with one another.

- (Harold North) Fowler, *A History of Roman Literature*
- (Robert) Fowler, *The Cambridge Companion to Homer*

- ✓ (Robert L.) Fowler, *Early Greek Mythography*\*

This work is composed by two volumes. The first contains the fragments further explored in the second. The second one contains the mythological information that can be obtained from said fragments, along with an attempt to present more information on each of the fragmentary authors associated with the fragments

themselves. At least the first part of the second volume is noteworthy for readers interested in more obscure myths, since the author obtained them from joining together the information from fragments and presents them to readers in a brief synthetic way.

- ✓ (Dian) Fox, *From King Sebastian of Portugal to Miguel de Cervantes and Don Quijote: A Genealogy of Myth and Influence*

In this research paper the author presents the idea that Cervantes' *Don Quixote* may be satirically based on the life of King Sebastian of Portugal. It is certainly an interesting possibility.

- ✓ (Girolamo) Fracastoro, *Syphilis sive de morbo gallico*

From the first half of the XVI century, this is a small "epic" poem about syphilis, particularly how it could have risen and how to recognise such disease. For me, the only amusing, or even interesting, part comes in the third of the three chapters, in which the author, to explain its (fictional) rise, tells the short story of one shepherd named Syphilus, the first person to get this disease.

- ✓ Francisco de Holanda, *Da Fábrica que Falece a Cidade de Lisboa*

About some of the significant buildings that the author, a famous painter, felt were lacking in the city of Lisbon near the end of the XVI century. Although the text, in itself, is fairly easy to find online, the original work also contained many beautiful drawings, and an edition which contains them is much harder to find, but also absolutely needed for someone who seeks to study this masterpiece.

- ✓ Francisco de Holanda, *De Aetatibus Mundi Imagines*

The story in this book is limited to just a few words per page, but it is undoubtedly one of the most impressively illustrated books I have ever seen. It presents images from the beginning of the world up to the end of times, containing all the most famous episodes from the Old and New Testaments, along with the lives of the saints and extended representations of the episodes of the Apocalypse.

- ✓ Francisco de Holanda, *De quanto Serve A*

*Sciencia do Desegno e Etendimento da Arte da  
Pintura, na República Christam Asi na Paz Como  
na Guerra*

A work in which the author, a notable painter, shows how important his art is, both during times of piece and in war. It is perhaps much less interesting than his other works, but it does contain a few notable drawings.

- ✓ Francisco de Moraes Cabral, *Cronica do famoso e muito esforçado cavalleiro Palmeirim d'Inglaterra* \*

Arguably one of the most famous chivalry romances composed in Portugal, as one of the (many) sequels to the *Palmeirim de Oliva*. It makes some references to the previous works of the series, but also seems to explain them in a way that most new readers would understand them too. The plot covers many different knights and the way their individual adventures intertwine, which may not please all readers, although it admittedly contains some very interesting episodes here and there, including some in Portugal, in the beautiful Castle of Almourol.



- ✓ (S.) Franclim, *D'O Encoberto, ou O livro de D. Sebastião*

Quite a strange book, supposedly written by an unknown person, a member of a secret society from Portugal, but "only" prefaced by this Franclim. Given the fact he has special interest in these subjects, it seems the whole idea involving this book is just fiction and nothing else. Regarding the content, it is pretty much a fantasy derived from the supposed idea King Sebastian of Portugal came back and wrote it. Apart from the fantasy involving it, I could find nothing else specially noteworthy about this work.

- ✓ (Anne) Frank, *Give!*

A somewhat philosophical essay on the importance of seeing others, regardless of who they are, as human beings. Her words deeply touched me, because I myself had argued for the importance of the subject in one of my own works.

- ✓ (Peter) Frano, *Polemika medzi cisárom Hadriánom a filozofom Epiktétom*

Written in Slovak, this work briefly presents the work at hand and then provides a translation of it to the

author's native language.

- ✓ (Lucy) Fraser, *Dogs, Gods, and Monsters: The Animal-Human Connection in Bakin's Hakkenden, Folktales and Legends, and Two Contemporary Retellings*

On the background and recent use of the idea of a marriage between a woman and a dog, a legend which seems to come from China, but gained special popularity in Japan's *Hakkenden*.

- ✓ (Michael) Frassetto, *Heretic Lives: Medieval Heresy from Bogomil and the Cathars to Wyclif and Hus*

An introductory work on medieval heresies. It is very well explained, and also written in a way which is fit for all readers who are interested in learning more about the subject.

- ✓ (James) Frazer, *The Golden Bough* \*

This is undoubtedly the most interesting work I have ever read on the subjects of Comparative Mythology and Religion. It presents almost endless information of an anthropological nature (perhaps even too much?),

but it is still certainly a collection of books which everyone interested in any of the aforementioned areas has to read.

- ✓ (José) Frèches, *'Notice Sommaire du Gentilisme d'Asie': un manuscript portugais du XVIIIe siècle consacré à la religion indienne* \*

This article contains an edition of the Portuguese manuscript *Notícia Sumária do Gentilismo da Ásia* – apart from introducing this work and its context, it also contains the original work transcribed in Portuguese of its epoch, along with a French translation of the entire work. Regrettably, it only contains a limited number of images, not all the ones from the original work.

- ✓ (Kathleen) Freeman, *Ancilla to the Pre-Socratic Philosophers*

A translation of the fragments of many pre-socratic philosophers.

- ✓ (Anselmo Braamcamp) Freire, *Livro dos Brasões da Sala de Sintra* \*

In the palace of the village of Sintra, in Portugal, you can find a room, usually called "Sala de Sintra",

containing the 72 coats of arms of the main noble families of Portugal. This book portrays and describes most of them, and it reports the story of those families, but strangely it doesn't always tell the reader the reasoning behind the elements present in the coat of arms. Occasionally, it does report a few legends.

✓ (Tim) Freke, *Jesus and the Lost Goddess* \*

Tim Freke's books, of which I also did read a few others before, have both a few interesting facts and a lot of baseless inferences. Less specialized readers may want to give them a look, for the simplicity in which he presents many of his ideas, but should also take them with a very significant grain of salt.

✓ (Sigmund) Freud, *Moses and Monotheism* \*

Written by *that* Sigmund Freud, this work attempts to identify who the biblical Pharaoh of Moses' story is. He provides a very compelling case for his asserted possibility, and so this can be a good read for those who are interested in the possible historicity of Moses and the events attributed to him.

✓ (Antonio Coelho de) Freytas, *Tratado da*

*Veneranda et Prodigiosa Imagem do Senhor de  
Bouças de Matozinhos* \*

Written near the end of the XVII century, this work contains all the legends associated with the Good Jesus of Bouças, or Matosinhos, in the north of Portugal. Occasionally, the author seems to realize he is talking about legends, and openly admits he doesn't have any real evidence for what he is reporting.

✓ (Nancy) Friday, *My Secret Garden* \*

An unusual book in which women reported their own sexual fantasies.

✓ (Richard Elliot) Friedman, *Who Wrote the Bible?*

Certainly a lot more interesting than I expected when I picked it up, this book explains why the Pentateuch was composed in the way it was and across multiple centuries. Although the work appears to be a lot more fiction than undisputable fact, it does make a good case for the thesis it defends, presents its points written in a very simple way, and it will definitely intrigue you if you're well familiar with the relevant texts.

✓ Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué, *Undine*

Written at the beginning of the XIX century, this fairy tale, in its twists and turns, is perhaps among the most beautiful I've read. The main character is a water sprite, and the story contains some magical elements, but its plot is unexpectedly humane and often unpredictable.

✓ (Ilse E.) Friesen, *The Female Crucifix: Images of St. Wilgefortis since the Middle Ages* \*

Although this work focuses specifically on the images of this unusual saint, the author also briefly retells the main part of her legends, unfortunately without ever delving much into any of them.

✓ (Uta) Frith, *Autism: A Very Short Introduction*

Apart from evidently being an introduction to the subject from the title, this book also briefly tells some real and brief stories of some people with autism and Asperger's.

✓ (H.) Fritze, *Invented Knowledge: False History, Fake Science and Pseudo-religions*

An intriguing book about belief, particularly on why

people have a specific set of ideas about Atlantis, the discovery of America, and other significant historical and cultural subjects.

✓ Frontinus, *Stratagems* \*

A compilation of some of the military tactics previously used in Greek and Roman history.

✓ Fructuosus of Braga, *Consensoria Monachorum*

Basically an agreement that monks would have to accept when joining a monastery, regarding physical possessions and what they had to do when they joined, or left, some monastery. The fact these rules had to be made hint that problems during said processes were common at the time.

✓ Fructuosus of Braga, *Letter to King Receswinth*

The most notable element of this letter is that it alludes to an extended sending of other similar pieces of content, but it is unclear, through the text itself, what the matter in dispute truly was.

✓ Fructuosus of Braga, *Regula Monachorum Complutensis*

Some rules created for a specific monastery, perhaps important for those who study how these places worked in the Iberian Middle Ages.

- ✓ Fructuosus of Braga, *Regula Monastica Communis* \*

Rules the author established for monasteries in general, perhaps even best considered in association with the other work already presented above.

- ✓ (Stephen) Fry, *Mythos: A Retelling of the Myths of Ancient Greece* \*

A modern adaptation of some Greek myths. Although it is essentially a book of limited appeal, its original edition features some interesting annexes and many beautiful black-and-white photos presenting the myths as the ancient authors knew them. Unfortunately, the Portuguese edition I later had access to also removes those additional assets, making me wonder if they're truly available in other editions around the globe.

- ✓ (Hiroko) Fujita, *The Price of Three Stories: Rare Folktales from Japan*

A collection of oral tales from Japan, shared by a



native and translated by a woman from the USA.

Overall, these are quaint tales, with multiple traditional elements, and they aren't too long, appropriate to be told to children without any issues.

✓ Fulcanelli, *Le Mystère des Cathédrales* \*

This somewhat famous work from the first half of the XX century argues that some cathedrals of France preserve alchemical truths and secrets. It is an intriguing work, although it is not exactly simple to understand if the symbolical system established by the author was originally intended as such, or simply the result of mere coincidences.

✓ Fulgentius, *Explanation of Obsolete Words*

An explanation of 62 Latin words which had become obscure by the author's time. For each one, the author explains their meaning and provides a quote using them, often from works which are no longer available to us.

✓ Fulgentius, *Exposition of the Content of Virgil According to Moral Philosophy*

In this work, which the author apparently considered a

sequel to his *Mythologies*, he presents the idea that Virgil has hidden moral philosophy in his *Aeneid*. In order to do so, the author takes small pieces of evidence from each book, with the end result being a very subjective and debatable one.

✓ Fulgentius, *Mythologies*

Written around the beginning of the VI century AD, this is one of the last works on Mythology from the Antiquity. The author attempts to explain many myths by taking advantage of allegories and etymologies, but some of the latter just aren't correct at all.

✓ Fulgentius, *On the Ages of the World and of Man\**

A history of the world containing some mistakes, with each chapter lacking a specific letter – i.e. “a” for the first, “b” for the second, and so on – and presenting moral interpretations of all the events. However, the book ends in the “o” section, being unclear if the author never completed it or the remaining sections were lost across time.

✓ Fulgentius(?), *On the Thebaid*

Apparently also by Fulgentius, in this work he presents a hidden moral philosophy in Statius' *Thebaid*.

However, instead of reading the whole work searching for evidence of his theory, he instead succinctly sums up the whole story, and then reworks it for his own purpose, in a very reductionist way.

- ✓ (Alison) Futrell, *Historical Sources in Translation*  
– *the Roman Games*

A compilation of information on the Roman Games based on the literary sources which directly mention them. It contains plenty of unexpected information, essentially derived from the fact that, more often than not, you could read through those references in the original works without ever paying any real attention to them.



## 8- Section G

- (Emilio) Gabba, *True History and False History in Classical Antiquity*
- (Michael) Gagarin, *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Greek Law*
- (Neil) Gaiman, *American Gods*

✓ Gaius Vibius Maximus, *Census Edict*

A short edict from the second century of our era, regarding a local census, which may have some resemblance with the one from Jesus' time.

✓ (James S.) Gale, *Korean Folk Tales: Imps, Ghosts, and Fairies*

This work contains 53 stories translated from what seem to be old authors from Korea, namely Im Bang and Yi Ryuk. Most of the stories are enjoyable, and feature some cultural introduction to the main characters in them, but regrettably the translator, Gale, adapted all the names of creatures and beings, making it impossible for the reader to know their original designations and, as such, to search for more

information about them.

✓ Galen, *An Exhortation to Study the Arts*

Arguably among one of Galen's most interesting works, here the author starts by complaining that too many people wanted to compete – and supposedly win – in the Olympic Games, but too few wanted to work hard enough to be able to do so. As such, the author presents an alternative, the fact that people should study all kinds of arts – in the sense of other areas of knowledge – instead of simply wishing to become athletes so they could get some fame and fortune.

✓ Galen, *The Best Doctor Is Also a Philosopher*

The title seems to say it all about this work, but I found it to be far from notable – I even quickly forgot its content shortly after reading it!

✓ Galen, *My Own Books*

This is a noteworthy book since in it the author tells readers how his previous works ended up being published, and why they aren't always alike. Given the presentation of this information, which is generally unavailable to us in regards to almost every author

from the Classical Antiquity, this may be a specially interesting work for those who want to know how works got to the general public back then.

✓ Galen, *On Diagnosis in Dreams*

A short treatise on how dreams can be used in medical diagnosis procedures.

✓ Galen, *On Fallacies Due to Language*

Another short treatise, the author briefly presents the subject from the title and then states what he and his predecessors wrote on it.

✓ Galen, *The Order of My Own Books*

Here, the author tells readers the order in which his books from different areas of knowledge should be read.

✓ Galileo, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*

Once famously banned by the Inquisition, this is the work in which Galileo compares Ptolemy's cosmic system with that of Copernicus. Debating if the Earth or the Sun were the central element of the universe

could at the time be seen as problematic, since the Church believed, evidently, that the Earth was important enough to be placed in that position, and so thinking otherwise would be considered heretical. However, this is not a scientific work, or one specially boring – instead, it unexpectedly presents the whole subject as a simple, and yet quite enjoyable, dialogue, that may even please unscientific audiences.

✓ Galileo, *The Sidereal Messenger*

In this book Galileo tells readers how he “invented” the telescope (which, more accurately, he seems to have improved from a past discoverer) and, step by step, reports four major novelties which he had already discovered by then.

✓ (D.) Gallop, *Parmenides of Elea – Fragments: a text and translation*

This is another of those cases in which the title itself perfectly describes what the work is all about. So, it presents a compilation and translation of the extant fragments of the philosopher Parmenides.

✓ (António) Galvão, *Tratado dos Descobrimentos*



From the mid XVI century, this work from Portugal presents a succinct history of the maritime discoveries, from the earliest times of mankind up to the author's own day and age. He recaps all the events in a very brief way, ideal to gain a general view of all those happenings, and occasionally mentions some less usual things that people supposedly saw on the new places they discovered.

✓ (Bhikkhu) Gambhiro, *Wordless Questioning*  
Essentially focusing on Buddhist meditation and multiple topics related to it.

✓ Gan Bao, *In Search of the Supernatural* \*

From the IV century, this book from China is essentially a compilation of reports containing (literally) any kind of supernatural elements. To call them all "stories" would be a stretch, but some are small story-like sequences, while others are mere reports of something which supposedly happened in the past.

✓ (Manuel J.) Gandra, *A Biblioteca Esotérica de Fernando Pessoa*

Literally just a listing of esoteric books present in Fernando Pessoa's personal library.

- ✓ (Manuel J.) Gandra, *Florilégio de Tradições do Concelho de Mafra* \*

This is a book containing many traditions, stories and pieces of folklore related to the Portuguese region of Mafra. The information was collected from multiple sources, and it may be interesting if you're looking for that kind of regional information regarding Portugal.

- ✓ (Manuel J.) Gandra, *Portugal Sobrenatural (...)* - Volume 1 \*

A dictionary of mystical, mysterious, legendary, etc., topics supposedly related to Portugal and Portuguese culture. The author provides references to some of his entries, but not to all. If there is a volume 2, as of the writing of these lines I have failed to find it.

- ✓ (Manuel J.) Gandra, *São Julião (Carvoeira, Mafra) e Mateus Álvares, Falso D. Sebastião da Ericeira*\*

A report on a small shrine near Ericeira, in Portugal, and also about one of many pretenders to being King

Sebastian of Portugal. What makes this book particularly noteworthy is the fact it presents a very high number of primary sources, all of them in Portuguese translation. If you're unusually interested in this Mateus Álvares, and the events involving him, this work is certainly worth a look.

✓ (Timothy) Gantz, *Early Greek Myth*

Among the scholarly editions of Greek Mythology this one is assuredly the most important and interesting I was able to find. The author goes across almost every myth, reconstruction its plot on both literary and iconographic evidence, also stressing in what cases he was able to find distinct – and sometimes, even very obscure – versions of the myths. So, if you already read all the more basic works, such as Edith Hamilton's or Robert Graves', and now you want to read something a lot more informative at a university level, this is almost certainly the book you've been looking for all along, and I personally recommend it.

✓ (Brás) Garcia de Mascarenhas, *Viriato Trágico* \*

Written in the XVII century, this epic poem from Portugal retells the adventures of the local hero of

roman times, Viriathus. The author seems to have used some sources from the Antiquity, and made up his own story over it. Overall, the poem extols the Portuguese race and its need for survival (which was important in the historical context of the time), but it is very dull, to the point it led me to wonder multiple times why I was even trying to read it.

✓ Garcia de Resende, *Cancioneiro Geral* \*

A XVI century compilation of poems from Portugal, containing hundreds of creations from that century and the previous one.

✓ Garcia de Resende, *Miscellanea* \*

A poetic but simple retelling of the events which took place during the author's lifetime.

✓ Garcia de Resende, *Trovas à Morte de Inês de Castro*

Seemingly the earliest poetic version of the death of Inês de Castro. It is a beautiful composition, and also notable for the fact it states the current king did not really want to kill her, but it were some of his knights who ended up doing that horrible deed.

- ✓ (Martin) Gardner, *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science*

An intriguing book about some less known “fads and fallacies”, generally from the XIX and XX centuries. Among them you can find references to beliefs regarding Pyramids and Atlantis, among other areas of science, along with explanations on how people started to believe in some strange things.

- ✓ (Martin) Gardner, *Science: Good, Bad and Bogus\**

Somewhat of a sequel to the book above, but with many almost-random topics, apparently collected from the writings of the author across the years, on the overall topic of Skepticism. I found it a lot less interesting than the previous one, but the article in which the author claims that it was Sancho who wrote of Quixote’s adventures, and not Cervantes himself, definitely intrigued me – I assumed the author was just joking, since he also points out the difference between Conan Doyle’s most famous character and the spirit of its author himself.

✓ Garin(?), *Le chevalier qui fist parler les cons*

A satirical medieval production, about a knight who helps three fairies and is ultimately rewarded with the unusual ability of talking to vaginas and asses.

Although this basic idea is definitely intriguing, this is also a very short work, which does not deserve being tracked down unless its plot makes you extremely curious.

✓ (Robert) Garland, *Surviving Greek Tragedy*

About how tragedies written in the Antiquity managed to find their way into our days.

✓ (Robert) Garland, *The Eye of the Beholder*

A volume on deformity and disability in the Ancient World, containing not only very extensive information on the subject but also many references to how the extant primary sources depict individuals fitting those categories.

✓ (C. Ronald) Garner, *Alien Disclosure at Area 51*

This little book focuses on "Dr. Dan Burisch" and essentially shows readers what happens when you blindly accept everything you hear in UFO-related

“researches”. It is filled with incredible information, some of which time proved to be fake.

- ✓ (Leah) Garrett, *A Knight at the Opera: Heine, Wagner, Herzl, Peretz, and the Legacy of Der Tannhauser* \*

This is a work on how the medieval legend of Tannhauser was later reused and readapted by opera writers from Germany for different kinds of purposes. The author briefly introduces the legend, and then, for each of the four individual authors, presents them and their life, before focusing on their individual treatment of the original tale and the reasons for their differences in the portrayal.

- ✓ (Amber) Gartrell, *The Cult of Castor and Pollux in Ancient Rome* \*

On the cultural and religious functions of the figures of the “Dioscuri” in Ancient Rome. The author does not talk much about their myths, but they appear to be a significant element to fully understand her book.

- ✓ Gary Hart, *My Life in Wrestling: With A Little Help From My Friends*

This autobiography of an apparently famous wrestling booker and manager is perhaps most notable today for the fact it is difficult to find in print. I enjoyed reading it, the author always seems to be very honest in his words, and he presents an unusual vision of the business. However, he is also... perhaps too honest and unfiltered in some of things he wrote down, which is likely the reason why reprinting the work can be a little bit problematic.

- ✓ (Catarina) Gaspar, *Guia Prático da Bruxa D'Arruda* \*

Compiled by this person and two others, this small book preserves some magic, religious and cultural beliefs from the area of Arruda dos Vinhos, in Portugal. It may not be easy to find a copy of, but from a cultural standpoint it is undoubtedly a curious compilation of popular beliefs.

- ✓ Gaspar de Carvajal, *Relación del nuevo descubrimiento del famoso río Grande que descubrió por muy gran ventura el capitán Francisco de Orellana* \*

This is a first-hand account of a partial exploration of



the Amazon river, in the year of 1542. Although it evidently reports on what happened at the time, the way it is written is far from pleasing, and in the end the work really bored me.

- ✓ (Icaro Francesconi) Gatti, *A Crestomatia de Proclo*

A college thesis on Proclus' *Chrestomathy*, mentioned here essentially due to the fact it was written in Portuguese and presents translations of the original texts into that language. However, the *Chrestomathy* itself is also available in English translation.

- ✓ (Atul) Gawande, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*

Reading this book was difficult, since it confronts humanity with the problem of dying, with special focus on western societies. However, it is not a philosophical work, but one about how people die in such societies, and how death itself is approached from a medical and societal standpoint. It is a very interesting read, but also a bit scary, in that it leads readers to confront themselves with their own mortality.

- ✓ (Giovanni Battista) Gelli, *Circe* \*

Following the idea presented in one of the tracts of Plutarch's *Moralia*, Ulysses here speaks with several people that Circe turned into animals. They refuse being turned back into human beings, but their individual reasons are quite interesting. It was written in the XVI century.

- ✓ Gemistos Plethon, *Nomoi* (f)

By an author born in the XIV century, this now-incomplete work of a philosophical nature seemed to present a theology somewhat based on that of the Ancient Greeks, Zoroaster and Plato. Curiously, the index for the work has survived, and some chapters appear to have been truly interesting, but for us they are now mere titles and nothing more.

- ✓ Gemistos Plethon, *Summary of the Doctrines of Zoroaster and Plato*

Supposedly, this work contains the essential elements of the same author's *Nomoi*.

- ✓ (P. F.) Gent, *The Historie of the Damnable Life, and Deserved Death of Doctor Iohn Faustus*

An english translation of an early version of the (originally german) Doctor Faust legend, translated near the end of the XVI century. Perhaps its most noticeable element is the fact that the hero neither obtains true love nor any real redemption, instead dying quite a horrible death, unlike in the more popular versions of the story.

✓ Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia Regum Britanniae*

This history of the kings of Britain is essentially built on legendary information. It starts with the destruction of Troy (and the rise of Brutus), and goes all the way up to the VII century AD. And although this is likely the most famous source of information for the “real” story of King Arthur, one certainly has to take into account that most of the events presented here appear to be either inaccurate or even completely fictional.

✓ Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Life of Merlin*

A “life” of Merlin, written in the XI century. It contains some references to elements from classical tradition, but it has a strange chronology, as if the titular figure was somehow different from his namesake in the

myths of King Arthur. In fact, this work's Merlin is more of a crazy sage who originally lives in the forest, instead of the magical figure we consider him to be in our modern traditions.

✓ Georges Méliès, *Mes Mémoires*

Although he apparently refused to write his own autobiography, second-hand information has reached us in which this famous cineast from France reports on his own life. I did not find it particularly interesting, but at least we still got some information from his regarding his past.

✓ (Robin) Gerber, *Barbie and Ruth* \*

This book is supposedly a history of Barbie and her creator, Ruth Handler. However, it seems to pay way too much attention to the latter and only some few chapters to the former. And so, I ultimately even decided to skip the final chapters; although this is a good book on the life of Barbie's female creator, it is certainly not a great one on her creation and its evolution, as I expected.

✓ Gervase of Tilbury, *Otia Imperialia* \*

From the XIII century, this work can be divided into two major parts. The first one, contained in two books, is mostly a history and geography of the then-known world. The second, however, is certainly a lot more interesting in the main context here at hand, since it preserves many myths, legends and supposed miracles known at the author's time, some of which he even claims to have seen in person, making it a noteworthy work for those who are interested in medieval mythology and legends.

✓ (Keith) Gessen, *Raising Raffi: The First Five Years*

An almost philosophical non-fiction work in which the author raises his first child for the initial five years. It contains some quaint stories, but also some notable considerations about ways to raise young kids, what problems you will find in your way, and other similar topics.

✓ Giacomo Fenicio, *Livro da Seita dos Indios Orientais* \*

Seemingly one of the first western books about the beliefs of India, it deserves to be noted here for

retelling in Portuguese the essential religious legends of that country, with his version of the *Ramayana* being specially long. Some other stories, though, are way shorter than you'd expect, making it hard to understand their original plot.

- (R. K.) Gibson, *The Classical Commentary – Histories, Practice and Theory*
- Gil Vicente(?), *Arrenegos do Barqueiro do Inferno*
- Gil Vicente, *Auto da Alma*

✓ Gil Vicente, *Auto da Feira*

A Portuguese play from the early XVI century (like the ones below, also by the same author), in which a fair takes place, seemingly criticizing the mores of the time. It is worth noting that the initial narrator is the god Mercury, and that it also contains an introductory sequence about Astrology.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Auto das Fadas*

Noteworthy for the fact it preserves us some of the contemporary thoughts on magic and fairies, which interested me so much that I decided to adapt it to

Modern Portuguese.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Auto de Mofina Mendes*

A short play fusing sacred and profane, in which the story of the birth of Jesus is joined with the one of shepherds who attend the birth. The first subject is treated seriously, but the second one has some funny moments.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Comédia de Rubena*

A comedy in which an unwanted baby is born in secret and taken to live in another place, eventually rising through life and becoming a princess. Notable for presenting many mystical ideas of the time, including the presence of a sorceress and some devils.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Comédia sobre a Divisa da Cidade de Coimbra*

Notable for being one of the oldest literary references to the blazon of the city of Coimbra, in Portugal. The author presents a story to explain its elements, but it seems to be currently unknown if this story was fully invented by him, or was somehow based on oral tales from his time. Also significant is the fact the author

wrote only a play about a blazon – this one – indicating how famous it already was at his point in time.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Cortes de Jupiter*

This play has the background (real) travel of a Portuguese princess to get married, and presents Jupiter, the Roman god, summoning his court to protect said royalty. As curious elements, it presents the transformation of multiple local people into fish, and also what is likely an early version – perhaps the earliest literary one? – of a legend involving an Enchanted Mooreess.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Exortação da Guerra*

In this Portuguese play a necromancer summons some figures from the Antiquity to talk about war – Polyxena, Penthesilea, Achilles, Hannibal, Hector and Scipio. Although their role is very limited, it is certainly interesting to notice that he still considers them to be the most fitting figures to discuss the subject at hand.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Farça de Inês Pereira*

A farce by the same author, this one about a woman



who has a very set idea on who to marry, but later regrets her decision.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Pranto de Maria Parda*

A short but amusing poetic story of a woman from Lisbon who, in a time when wine lacked (or was just way too expensive?), tried to get some of this drink. Repeatedly failing her goal, she then mourns her misfortune and eventually ends her tale with a equally funny wine-related will.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Serra da Estrela*

This one presents a scene in the mountain, with some episodes supposedly typical of the time. It has no significant legendary elements.

✓ Gil Vicente, *Trilogia das Barcas*

Composed by three plays with a shared underlying concept – the *Auto da Barca do Inferno*, *Auto da Barca do Purgatório* and the *Auto da Barca da Glória* – this trilogy is quite amusing, as it successively presents the fates of many different classes of people in the afterlife. Given its satirical purpose, and even the way in which it fuses truth and jokes, these have been

quite popular across time, and I even recall have read the first one back in school. However, it should be noted that the third is written in Spanish, and so may be a bit harder to understand even if you're already familiar with the Portuguese language.

✓ Gilberto Freyre, *Assombrações do Recife Velho*  
Compiled in the middle of the XX century, this work presents supernatural stories collected in the area of Recife, in Brazil, at the time. The author seems to have heard at least some of them himself, while others were obtained from other sources, and he sometimes even names the person who told him such stories. Maybe this depends on edition to edition, but in the one I read there was even a second part of the book with supernatural stories associated to buildings and physical places in the area.

- (Owen) Gingerich, *The Book Nobody Read: Chasing the Revolutions of Nicolaus Copernicus\**
- ✓ (Carlo) Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: The Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*  
Quite a fascinating book, in which the author presents

the real case of a XVI century miller accused by the local Inquisition, and what became of him. He goes step by step through the whole case, even quoting from the registers while explaining how the miller may have obtained certain knowledge and particular ideas. The result is truly fascinating, and one must certainly wonder why there aren't many other books like this, focusing on other significant cases from the records of the Inquisition.

- ✓ (Carlo) Ginzburg, *The Night Battles: Witchcraft & Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth & Seventeenth Centuries* \*

Focusing mostly on the "Benandanti" of Italy, but the author also delves into other similar cults and beliefs from other areas of Europe.

- ✓ Giordano Bruno, *Cabal of the Horse Pegasus*  
This is a very unusual production, in the sense it is composed of many different literary genres, but it should be stated it features some allusions to myths from the Antiquity. The eventual presentation of the case of a man who had been Pegasus in a previous life certainly deserves a special mention here.

- Giordano Bruno, *On Magic*

- ✓ (Jean) Giraudoux, *Amphitryon 38* \*

From the first half of the XX century, this is a play based on the Greek Myth of Amphitryon, supposedly the 38th one available at that time. It preserves the bulk of the myth, but does seem to focus a bit more on the subjects of love and pleasure.

- ✓ (Bryan) Givens, *Judging Maria de Macedo: A Female Visionary and the Inquisition in Early Modern Portugal*

On the historical case of a woman who supposedly visited the island in which the Portuguese King Sebastian lived, waiting for the time of his return. The author presents the whole case in English, analyses it, and even translates its most important document. However, his interpretation is, at times, a bit incomplete, and his reading of the Portuguese text is also occasionally flawed. Overall, the work is certainly interesting, but also has significant room for improvement in some of his interpretations.

- ✓ (N. S.) Godfrey, *Table-Turning, the Devil's Modern Master-Piece*

Dated from 1853, this work written by a reverend essentially presents some experiences he did with Spiritism's tables. The book presents the questions he asked them, and how they led him to conclude that said tables were moved exclusively through the power of the Devil. The work is short and a lot less interesting than it may seem through this description, but nonetheless worthy of note.

- (Joseph) Goebbels, *Europe in Year 2000 and Other Essays*

- ✓ (Johann Wolfgang von) Goethe, *Faust, a Tragedy*

Partially based on the Faust legend from Germany, this tells us the story of a man who makes a pact with a demon to attain a higher level of knowledge. The first part of the play has a truly beautiful moment near its ending, and although the second one is crowded with mythological references and episodes adapted by Goethe for his storyline, it is more difficult to follow

and, in my opinion, much less pleasing. Overall, I felt this was a passable tragedy, which may ultimately disappoint those who are familiar with the original story, as the hero seems much less conflicted over his personal actions.

✓ (Johann Wolfgang von) Goethe, Poems \*

A compilation of some of the poems by this author exists, and it was translated by one Graham Good. It has some interesting poetic compositions here and there.

✓ (Lee) Goldberg, *Unsold TV Pilots: The Greatest Shows You Never Saw*

This book essentially presents 300 TV pilots that were produced but never led to a complete show. You're basically told the plot for each of them.

✓ (Simon) Goldhill, *The Temple of Jerusalem*

A brief and very simply written introduction to the history and relevance of the Temple of Jerusalem.

✓ (William) Goldman, *The Princess Bride*

What is particularly interesting about this amusing

novel is the way in which it clearly satirizes some literary conventions which, in some cases, even go back all the way to Aristotle's *Poetics*. If you're looking for a new fictional book to read, this is certainly a very good option, and likely one of the most pleasurable fictional books I ever read.

- ✓ Gomes de Santo Estêvão, *Livro do Infante D. Pedro de Portugal, o qual andou as sete partidas do Mundo*

Regarding the travels of one of the sons of King John I of Portugal. The work, which seems to have been popular locally in the XVII and XVIII centuries, is undoubtedly more fiction than fact, as the travellers eventually see unicorns, travel to Paradise and Prester John's court, etc. It should be noted the work references some myths and legends from the Antiquity, but in a super succinct way.

- ✓ (J. Reis) Gomes, *A Lenda de Loreley: Contada por um Latino*

This brief work introduces the so-called german legend of Loreley, and then retells it in Portuguese. It is as brief as it is disappointing, since it tells readers a very

short story and never even makes it perfectly clear that the whole thing is not really a legend, but a fictional tale written at the beginning of the XIX century.

- ✓ (Sílvia) Gomes, *Visconde do Porto da Cruz: Um Estudioso da Cultura Madeirense*

A research paper about a scholar from the island of Madeira, who, among other things, seemingly first compiled local myths and legends. This paper, in itself, is useful to a reference to the content he collected, since his books are not usually easy to find.

- ✓ (Megan) Goodwin, *Memory and Materiality beyond Heaven's Gate*

An article briefly portraying the intervention of two surviving members of *Heaven's Gate* in a college class, elaborating on their current role.

- ✓ (Cyrus H.) Gordon, *Forgotten Scripts: The story of their decipherment* \*

As the subtitle of this book says it best, this work is about multiple forgotten scripts from the Middle East and Europe and how their meaning was eventually



recovered across time. The author tells such stories in a simple way, but the fact he extensively tells his own story in one of the final chapters is also a bit strange.

✓ Gorgias, *Defense of Palamedes*

Palamedes is here defended of the crimes the Greeks imputed him, a now-obscure myth which was likely presented in the lost *Cypria*.

✓ Gorgias, *Encomium of Helen*

Similar to the previous one, with Helen here being defended of the charge of having fled from her original husband with Paris.

✓ (Chris) Gosden, *Magic, a History: From Alchemy to Witchcraft, from the Ice Age to the Present*

This book gave me very mixed feelings. Although the initial chapters, on how the concept of magic arose and evolved in several different cultures around the globe, are definitely quite interesting, what can be considered as the second part of the work undoubtedly pales in comparison. Which is definitely disappointing, since, after presenting the culture of magic around the globe, at that point the author decides to focus exclusively in

its context and development in Europe, and even that task is accomplished in too simplistic of a way. It's almost as if someone else had written that second part, and just wanted to get it out of the way as quickly as possible. Perhaps it'd have been best to call this a book on the origin of magic across the globe, since the "from the Ice Age to the Present" part is absolutely misleading and barely approached in an effective and worthwhile fashion.

- ✓ Govind Raghunath Dabholkar, *Shri Sai Satcharita: The Life & Teachings Of Shirdi Sai Baba* \*

This book was once recommended to me as a great one, but I personally found it to be completely passable, since it essentially praises "Baba" endless times, and so the reader is essentially left clueless if he doesn't know him yet, but definitely sees how great of a man he was if he already knows him. I feel this work was simply written for the latter. There are some interesting philosophical points sprinkled all over, but for me that was essentially it.

- (Temple) Gradin, *The Unwritten Rules of Social*

## *Relationships*

### ✓ Grattius, *Cynegeticon*

A short poem on the art of hunting. It contains very limited mythological references.

### ✓ (Kersey) Graves, *The World's Sixteen Crucified Saviors*

This work argues that Jesus didn't really exist, instead being a composition of several figures with similar characteristics. Unfortunately, most of the evidence presented here is also very circumstantial, and in some cases simply false.

### ✓ (Robert) Graves, *Greek Myths*

I always considered this to be an intermediary work on the study of Greek Myths, a bit more complex than Edith Hamilton's. Although its author presents many myths and (personal?) theories associated with them, realistically his possibilities aren't always that well supported, and in some cases he seems to mention mythical versions with purely unknown sources. For that reason, I'd take any unique information he provides with a huge grain of salt.

- ✓ (Chris) Gray, *The Moderator: Inside Facebook's Dirty Work in Ireland* \*

I felt a bit misled about this book, since I expected it to be about Facebook's moderation in itself, but instead it seems to focus more on what happened to the author after he left one such job.

- ✓ (James Huntley) Grayson, *Myths And Legends From Korea: An Annotated Compendium of Ancient and Modern Materials* \*

This is a perfect book for those looking for more information about myths from Korea at a scholarly level, since the author not only translates those stories from the original but also provides extensive information and commentary on each of them. If I had to point a problem with this work, however, it'd be that it contains very old stories and very recent ones (i.e. from the early XX century), but almost nothing in-between. As such, a reader may get the false idea that some stories and topics are all fairly recent, when they've actually been around for many centuries, the author just having not provided any significant intermediary tales.

✓ (John) Greaves, *Pyramidographia* \*

Published in the middle of the XVII century, this work appears to essentially recap what we know about the Pyramids of Egypt through what the authors of Classical Antiquity wrote about them. The work contains some images, but in the edition I had access to them they are barely visible.

✓ (Gary) Greenberg, *101 Myths of the Bible: How Ancient Scribes Invented Biblical History* \*

Although the title is misleading – it covers exclusively the *Book of Genesis*, not the entire Bible – this is actually an interesting book, in which the author argues that many episodes from the Old Testament are either adapted forms of previous myths (e.g. Egyptian ones), or impossible to have taken place due to the extant archaeological evidence. Perhaps some of the chapters are not entirely convincing (e.g. the one about the giants marrying the daughters of men), but overall the author does make some very interesting points, which, even if not always true, do end up making us think about the subjects at hand.

- ✓ "Gregório de Almeida", *Restauração de Portugal Prodigiosa* \*

Written under pseudonym in the middle of the XVII century, this work preserves prophecies, prodigies, and other similar things that occurred in Portugal after the disappearance of King Sebastian. Curiously, its author even resorts to biblical prophecies and reads them in a way they are made to fit to this country.

- ✓ (Pope) Gregory XIII, *Inter gravissimas*

This papal bull was responsible for the adoption of the so-called Gregorian Calendar. In a nutshell, it defines how the new calendar was to be adopted and how to solve some of the main problems which would rise from the changes needed to implement it.

- ✓ Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Moses* \*

Essentially split into two books, the first one retells Moses' life, based on the Old Testament but also with some significant changes, potentially to avoid a few more problematic points. The second one goes through the plot in more detail, presenting the prophet's life as somewhat of a metaphorical experience that we should strive to follow in our lives.

✓ Gregory of Nyssa, *Life of Saint Macrina*

A simple work, essentially telling the life of one Macrina, later a saint, without much flourishing or constant and strange miracles. The author appears to have known her himself, at least late in her own life.

✓ Gregory of Tours, *The Miracles of the Bishop Saint Martin* \*

Across four books, this work preserves many of the miracles caused by Saint Martin (of Tours') intercession after he died. Particularly interesting is the fact that some of these occurred to the author himself, as he openly and gladly admits, giving us a rare glimpse into how personal miracles were seen in the sixth century of our era.

✓ Gregory of Tours, *The Sufferings and Miracles of the Martyr Saint Julian* \*

This text begins with a short description of Saint Julian's death, who was beheaded. It then proceeds by describing the many miracles this same saint caused after his martyrdom.

- ✓ (William Elliot) Griffis, *Japanese Fairy World: Stories from the Wonder-Lore of Japan*

Although this work sums up many significant legends from Japan which contain fantasy elements, the author also seems to have adapted many significant elements, names and designations from the originals, which make it hard to read and actually understand, even more if you are already familiar with other versions of the same tales.

- ✓ (Pierre) Grimal, *Dictionnaire de la mythologie grecque et romaine* \*

This particular dictionary is often referenced in the study of Greek Mythology. Although, in its original version (a "concise" edition I also had access to removes all references made to the original texts), it provides plenty of useful information, it also suffers from a significant issue – the author appears to give the same degree of trustworthiness to very different sources, and giving Homer the same credence as the strange lines of Ptolemy Hephaestion (which Photius himself, in his *Bibliotheca*, considered to have "incorrect information") is evidently problematic.



- ✓ (Jacob) Grimm, *Teutonic Mythology* \*

Although unreliable in a few points, this is apparently one of the biggest works on mythology from Germany, covering many different topics in large, encyclopedia-like, entries. Perhaps it is not a very enjoyable read, but it definitely features almost endless information on the subject.

- (M.) Grunbart, *Tis love that has warm'd us. Reconstructing networks in 12th century Byzantium*

- ✓ (Susan Audrey) Grundy, *Leonardo – The Making and Breaking of a Myth*

This work argues that the notebooks typically associated with Leonardo da Vinci were not really written by him. Although the author does provide readers with many tantalizing questions, I feel the evidence provided here is not enough to prove the whole case.

- (Luo) Guanzhong, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* \*

- ✓ (Luo) Guanzhong, *The Three Sui Quash the Demons' Revolt*

A novel filled with magical and fantastic elements, very loosely based on historical events from medieval China. It has some funny moments here and there, particularly in the earliest chapters.

- ✓ (Francesco Maria) Guazzo, *Compendium Maleficarum* \*

From the early XVII century, this fascinating work not only briefly reveals some of the most commonly-held beliefs about witchcraft, but also presents many brief stories to complement each chapter, which add some colouring to the topic. They are also crowded with references to many other authors noted for their research in this area, from ones coming from the Classical Antiquity up to ones from the author's own time.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *The Book of the Epic: The World's Great Epics in Story* \*

An unusual book, since it resumes the adventures of the world's most famous epic poems, usually even chapter by chapter. So, it can be used to gather some

basic knowledge of those works.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *Legends of the Middle Ages: with Special Reference to Literature and Art* \*

A retelling of some of the most famous legends of the Middle Ages in Europe. If I had to point an issue about it, it'd possibly be that it doesn't feature a bibliography that the reader can use to learn more about each of the legends presented here.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *Legends of the Virgin and Christ: with Special Reference to Literature and Art* \*

A work containing many apocryphal stories regarding not only the Virgin Mary, but also Jesus and a few other biblical figures. It is an enjoyable work if read exclusively for its literary value, but those who seek a more scholarly source will find that, regrettably, this work seldom reports where each specific legend comes from.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *The Myths of Greece & Rome: Their Stories, Signification and Origin* \*

This seems like a great introductory book on the myths

of Ancient Greece and Rome, since it presents all the gods, under the roman names, and introduces the main myths associated with each of them, before advancing to the main heroic figures, whose main myths are also presented here.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *Myths of Northern Lands: Narrated with Special Reference to Literature and Art* \*

Following from the sequence above, this work presents the main gods and myths from Nordic Mythology, and does so in a simple way.

- ✓ (H. A.) Guerber, *Stories from the Wagner Opera*  
In this work, the author essentially sums up the plots of Wagner's operas, including the four famous works regarding the legend of the Ring of the Nibelungs, which the author seems to have adapted from the original stories of Germany.

- ✓ Guerra Junqueiro, *O Caçador Simão*  
A satirical poem criticizing the last king of Portugal, which appears to have been fairly popular until a few decades ago.

- ✓      Gui de Cambrai, *Barlaam and Josaphat*      \*

A French medieval version of the famous christian story of "Barlaam and Josaphat".

- ✓      (Rosemary Ellen) Guiley, *The Encyclopedia of Saints*      \*

This encyclopedia features a lot of information on many – but not all – saints. For each of them, the reader is typically given some biographical information, the feast date, and their patronage. In some limited cases a small bibliography is presented, so that people can learn a bit more about them. The end of the book also features a few appendices, the most interesting of which is probably a brief reference to the main heresies and schisms of the Church.

- ✓      (Rosemary Ellen) Guiley, *Harper's Encyclopedia of Mystical & Paranormal Experience*      \*

This other encyclopedia by the same author presents information on Mysticism and the Paranormal, as the title says. For each entry, the reader gets a brief description of the subject at hand and it is followed by some bibliography about it, supposedly from where the

author got her information. It contains a lot of information on both topics at hand, but it is clearly not a complete reference to all elements encompassed by them.

✓ Guillaume Adam, *How to Defeat the Saracens*  
Written in the early XIV century, the author presents multiple reports on why the Saracens were profiting from the West, and complements them with ways on how to fix those same problems. I could not be sure if all the information reported by Adam is absolutely true, some of the arguments presented seem like they come from the typical stock one would use to degrade opponents of any kind.

✓ Guillermo del Toro, *Cabinet of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections, and Other Obsessions*  
Certainly a very notable work for fans of Guillermo del Toro's movies, since it allows the readers to get an insider look at many of secrets and processes behind his movies. The book is crowded with unusual pictures from the author's personal journals, showing many of the elements and ideas he uses and reuses in his movies.

- ✓ (Bernardo) Guimarães, *A Escrava Isaura*

A famous romance from Brazil, published at the end of the XIX century, about a local slave who was deeply wanted (sexually, it seems) by her owner, but refused to give herself to him. The whole story was eventually made it a soap opera, which is now way more famous than the romance itself.

- (Joana) Guimarães, *Suicídio mítico – uma luz sobre a antiguidade clássica*

- ✓ Gypsy-Rose Blanchard, *Released: Conversations on the Eve of Freedom*

A book with some thoughts from this author, seemingly written down a few days before she left prison. It is an intriguing way to gain access to who she really was, even before she joined the “real world”. It’s not a very interesting book, but some aspects of it are certainly though-provoking.





## 9- Section H

- (Michael) Haag, *The Templars: The History and the Myth* \*
- ✓ (Tomas) Hagg, *The Virgin and her Lover: fragments of an ancient greek novel and a persian epic poem*

An attempt at reconstructing an Ancient Greek Novel titled *Metiokhos and Parthenope*, based not only on its fragments but also on evidence coming from Persian sources. It also contains extensive research on the recovery of the original texts and other theoretic information important for its study. If you're wondering, although this work does provide lots of valuable information, the currently available evidence is also ultimately unable to reconstruct the actual ending of the story.

- ✓ (Thomas) Hahn, *The Medieval Oedipus*

A short paper on the medieval *Lament of Oedipus*, where the hero recalls the events of his life. It contains a translation of the Latin original, along with some

considerations on the literary relationship of the figures of Judas and Oedipus in the Middle Ages.

✓ (Gideon) Haigh, *The Uncyclopedia*

This book essentially covers completely random topics from one chapter to the next, and some of them are indeed related to the Classical Antiquity.

✓ (E. H.) Haight, *Essays on the Greek Romances*

Some essays on the extant Ancient Greek Romances, with this genre here being given a very wide definition, in order to also include Lucian's *True History* and *Lucius of the Ass*.

✓ (Raj) Halдар, *P is for Pterodactyl: The Worst Alphabet Book Ever*

A bit of a crazy book, in which the letters of the alphabet are presented through the unusual sounds they often take. Probably it wasn't designed for kids, in spite of all the drawings, and appears to be mostly a satirical gift.

✓ (Manly P.) Hall, *The Secret Teaching of All Ages\**

If there is something that can't be doubted about this

particular book, it is the fact that it contains beautiful images, all of them specially relevant to the subjects at hand. However, despite presenting them alongside with extensive information on mysticism and so-called “secret knowledge”, both ancient and modern, there’s also a very big problem about this book – the quality of the information it provides varies widely... for example, at one point the author admits the ancient druids left us no information of their own, and then provides, across several pages, extensive information on them and their rites, without ever stating how he gained access them; a few pages later, he mentions a (false?) myth from Ancient Greece in which Muses sometimes turned into bees; at the same time, he presents the reader with a complete translation of the *Sefer Yetzirah* (which is fairly easy to understand), and in the very next chapter continues the same topic with a much more complex follow-up, as if some pages had vanished in between. Perhaps it is best to define this as a valuable book, but also one in which all the information provided has to be taken with a very significant grain of salt.

✓ (Zachary) Hamby, *World Mythology for*

*Beginners: 50 Timeless Tales from Around the Globe* \*

Essentially written for a younger audience, this book contains some myths from all over the world. Perhaps the ones the author picked were not the most notable or representative of each culture, but at least they are presented with pictures and with some additional pieces of information that may entice readers to explore the topics at hand even further.

✓ (Edith) Hamilton, *Mythology*

Across the years, when asked for a book recommendation on a good and simple introduction to Greek Mythology, my answer was always the exact same one – Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology*. This is a very simple book, written in an enjoyable way and fit for all audiences alike. However, it does not provide any sources or any bibliography for further exploration, and for that reason more advanced readers on this subject may prefer Graves’ or Gantz’s mythological works, already previously described above.

✓ (Graham) Hancock, *America Before: The Key to Earth's Lost Civilization*

As the books below, this one focuses on the idea that a lost civilization may have influenced multiple cultures around the globe. In this case, the work focuses specifically on North and South America, but since the author alludes to his many other works on the subject, maybe they all deserve to be read in their original order of publication.

✓ (Graham) Hancock, *Fingerprints of the Gods*

A rather intriguing book in which the author argues for the former existence of a now-missing civilization which impacted multiple areas around the globe, which can be found through the resemblances in some local cultural aspects. Perhaps it stretches facts here and there a little bit, but it's not as crazy as the now-famous "Ancient Aliens" theory.

✓ (Graham) Hancock, *Magicians of the Gods: The forgotten wisdom of earth's lost civilisation*

One of the sequels to the above, continuing the same idea of a potential lost civilization (or civilizations, plural), that disappeared from our world after a cataclism.

- ✓ (William) Hansen, *The Book of Greek and Roman Folktales, Legends and Myths*

The author here approaches the subject of Greek and Roman Stories in an infrequent way, by setting several categories and providing examples fitting them. Just to exemplify three sequences, for "Myths and Princesses" he mentions the story of Eros and Psyche; for "Lower Mythology", the strange tale about Pan being dead; while "Ghosts" comes filled with short ghost stories from the Antiquity.

Overall, this book contains many less-known folk tales and myths, and despite the fact they are generally very short, they also provide the reader with plenty of reasons for the exploration of several literary sources he may not know yet.

- ✓ (Richard) Happer, *Abandoned Places: 60 Stories of Places Where Time Has Stopped* \*

As the title says it, this work presents the stories of 60 places around the world which were once famous but are now fully abandoned. For each entry, the author presents their backstory, a few photos, and a conclusion in which it is explained why the place was abandoned. It certainly has some interesting

moments, but it'd definitely be better if the author was more consistent when it came down to photos – some entries have plenty of great ones, while others have very few and/or ones that don't really do any justice to the locations themselves.

- (Philip) Hardie, *The Cambridge Companion to Ovid* \*

- ✓ (Victor Eugenio) Hardung, *Romanceiro Portuguez* \*

A compilation of old Portuguese "romances", in the sense of short narratives in verse. Some of them preserve local legends, others seem to relate to european medieval stories, and there are even a few which are simply local stories and songs famous among the lower classes of society, with at least one of them, the *Nau Catrineta*, still being famous nowadays.

- ✓ Harper Lee, *Go Set a Watchman*

I read this one after the famous one below, and in spite of what the initial parts of the book make it seem, this is actually a draft of the author's famous book. It is much poorer, and a lot less interesting, than

the other version.

✓ Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

I decided to read this book based on its cultural influence in the US. Although it starts a bit slowly, the story is interesting and appears to capture the life of a small American town in the early XX century, both in the good and bad aspects of one.

✓ Hartmann von Aue, *Gregorius, or The Good Sinner*

A XII century romance, about a couple of brother and sister who eventually have a son, who ends up marrying his own mother. It can perhaps be defined as a christian version of Oedipus, in the sense that everyone seems to attain their forgiveness at the end.

✓ (Marc) Hartzman, *American Sideshow*

On human sideshow attractions, from the time of its beginning up to our days of today. For each individual figure, the author succinctly tells the reader their stories; it is only a shame that we don't always know what eventually became of many of those performers, but if you're looking for the story of a specific one this



work may be a good starting point.

- ✓ Haruki Murakami, *On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning*

A very short story about two young people perfect for each other who casually meet in a street. The idea is fascinating, and the execution certainly intriguing, but personally I felt the plot is also too short.

- ✓ (Richard E.) Harwood, *Did Six Million Really Die?*  
Often censored as “denying Holocaust”, this book essentially argues that the number of Jews who died during the Second World War is much lower than “six million”. It does make some good points, and nowhere does it ever it directly denies that the Holocaust took place, unlike those who censor it make it sound.

- ✓ (Bernard) Hayes, *Chinese Mythology: A Concise Guide to the Gods, Heroes, Sagas, Rituals and Beliefs of Chinese Myths*

I was once sent a copy of this book and asked to rate it. It is arguably one of the worst books I’ve ever read, something so bad that, apparently, it was later even removed from online marketplaces. The author

repeatedly over promises and constantly under delivers, resumes myths in a way that makes it impossible to understand them (usually with plainly incorrect information), presents chapters which have nothing to do with the topic in the title, and many, many other absurd things. Absolutely do not waste any of your time or money with this one.

✓ (John) Hazel, *Who's Who in the Greek World* \*  
Essentially a succinct encyclopedia on Ancient Greek men and women, with no mythological subjects. Although the author provides, here and there, some intriguing pieces of information, he does not credit his sources. For example, at one point he mentioned that Apollodorus' *On Gods* has survived, but I couldn't find any evidence of this, nor understand where he got that information.

✓ (W. Carew) Hazlitt, *Faiths and Folklore: A Dictionary* \*

Published at the beginning of the XX century, this work alludes to and covers the English folklore of its time, presenting figures and cultural elements in a brief but significative way.

- ✓ (Lafcadio) Hearn, *Kwaidan: Ghost Stories and Strange Tales of Old Japan*

A collection of traditional stories from Japan which have in common the presence of mystical elements, with three additional chapters on bugs.

- ✓ Hegemonius, *Acta Archelai*

A IV century work in which Mani, considered the founder of Manicheism, is opposed to the doctrines of a bishop from Christianity and other people from that same religion. Evidently the former always loses, and this book in itself does have some clearly fictional elements (e.g. Mani does make some great points here and there, but they're all mostly ignored), but through it we are at least able to get access to some of the old doctrines associated with the other religion.

- (Barbara FC van) Heijst, *Autism and depression are connected: A report of two complimentary network studies* \*

- ✓ (Heinrich) Heine, *Gods in Exile*

An essay on what happened to the ancient gods after

the rise of Christianity. Although one has to assume it is a purely fictional one, it does provide some intriguing ideas on how Heine, in the XIX century, saw the influence of the old mythological gods in his own society.

✓        Heldris of Cornwall, *Le Roman de Silence*        \*

A 13th century romance about a woman who has to pretend to be a man for most of her life.

✓        Helen Keller, *The Story of my Life*

An autobiography of this famous disabled figure from the US up until she was about 20 years old. It has some charming moments, and essentially explains how she lived her life until that point in time.

✓        Hélinand de Froidmont, *Les Vers de la Mort*

A long medieval poem, which can even be subdivided into many smaller ones, with the underlying subject of death. To me, it always seemed as fitting nowadays as it was back when it was written, since it reminds readers of the beauty and fearfulness of death itself.

✓        Heliodorus of Emesa, *Aethiopica*        \*

Another Ancient Greek novel. As always, it tends to follow the set of episodes common in these, such as one of the characters being kidnapped by pirates.

✓ (Randel) Helms, *Gospel Fictions*

This unusual work proves that the four canonical gospels were written based on adaptations from the so-called Old Testament and are, as such, pure fictions. The idea is certainly intriguing, and the author does provide extensive evidence for it, some of which is undeniably thought-provoking.

✓ (Francisco da Fonseca) Henriques, *Aquilegio Medicinal* \*

From the early XVIII century, this work describes the properties of the many water sources all over Portugal. Here and there, the author briefly alludes to specific stories associated with a small number of them, but those episodes are too rare and far between to making it worth to track down this book, unless you're already super interested in its main topic.

✓ Heraclides Criticus, *Bios Ellados*

A very succinct description of some cities of Ancient

Greece.

✓ Heraclitus, *Homeric Problems*

Defending the idea that Homer may have portrayed the gods in immoral ways, this Heraclitus provides allegorical interpretations for many significant episodes from both Homeric Poems.

✓ Heraclitus the Obscure, *Fragments*

These fragments by Heraclitus, surnamed "The Obscure", give some insight into his philosophical ideas, which may be important for the study of pre-socratic ideas.

✓ Heraclitus the Paradoxographer, *On Incredible Tales*

A compilation of 39 extremely simple myths, together with very simple interpretations of them, similar to Palaephatus' own work of the same name.

✓ (R. Travers) Herford, *Christianity in Talmud and Midrash* \*

This book presents the references to Jesus and Christianity in the Jewish works mentioned in its title.

Each reference is further complemented with some extended commentaries by the author, discussing the content at hand, which is quite an interesting addition.

✓      Hermas, *The Shepherd of Hermas*

An unusual piece of trivia – I could never understand if this work was named *The Shepherd of Hermas* or simply *The Shepherd* [i.e. *written by Hermas*]. Either way, it was greatly appreciated in the first centuries of our era; it features five mystical visions, followed by twelve symbolic commandments and ten parables, all the content essentially being allegorical and mystical.

✓      Hermes Trimegistus, *Corpus Hermeticum*

Although the content of this work is not very easy to understand or succinctly describe, I had to mention the impact it later had in areas such as Alchemy, Astrology and Mysticism.

✓      Hermias, *Derision of gentile philosophers*

A short work in which a Christian apologist appears to mock the philosophers and their most famous ideas. It was read in French, as I ultimately failed to find any English translations of it.

- ✓ (Luciano Cid) Hermida, *Leyendas, Tradiciones y Episódios Históricos de Galicia*

Although this book does contain a few legends and historical episodes from Galicia, in Spain, its most noteworthy sequence is likely the final chapter, where the author tries to find out whether the “tribute of the 100 ladies” was literally true or simply a legend from the Iberian Peninsula. He presents both sides of the equation, and appears to conclude that the whole thing had at least a kernel of truth.

- ✓ Herodas, *Mimes*

His work seems to have reached us fairly incomplete, but he still produced eight mimes, i.e. small and usually funny scenes from real life of the time.

- ✓ Herodotus, *Histories*

Its author frequently called “the father of History”, this work actually preserves a mixture of historical accounts and fictional details. The sequence of Croesus and Solon, from the first book, is particularly famous for its moral lesson (“count no man fortunate until the day he dies”), but many others were popular in late



Greek and Latin cultures.

✓ (Pseudo-)Herodotus, *Life of Homer*

Many fictional accounts of Homer's life existed in the Antiquity. This one is wrongly attributed to Herodotus, but as any others it should be taken with a huge grain of salt.

✓ Hesiod?, *Catalogue of Women* (f)

This fragmentary poem may have followed the *Theogony*, if you take into account the information from verses 1021-1022. Based on the (many) extant fragments, it seems to have contained a catalogue of mythological women, along with many references to their myths and those of their offspring.

✓ Hesiod?, *Megalai Ehoiai* (f)

Another fragmentary poem often attributed to Hesiod, and which seems to have resembled the *Catalogue of Women*. Given their very similar nature, one has to wonder whether these were really two works instead of a single one.

✓ Hesiod?, *Shield of Heracles*

This work's name comes from the fact that it features a long description of Heracles' shield, who is presented here facing a battle against Cycnus and that hero's father, the god Ares.

✓ Hesiod, *Theogony*

Another work that everyone who is interested in Greek Myths should read. Although Greeks had many different ideas on the creation of the gods and the world, this is certainly the most famous one. It is of a genealogical nature, alluding to, but not retelling, many different myths as it goes along, thus providing the reader with plenty of space for a personal exploration.

✓ Hesiod, *The Works and the Days*

Somewhat of an agricultural work written for the author's brother Perses, it is most famous for preserving both the "Myth of the Five Ages" and Pandora's own, which the author uses as a way to explain why work is needed now, when such necessity didn't exist in the distant past.

✓ (Bernard) Heuvelmans, *On the Track of*

### *Unknown Animals*

Seemingly one of the earliest and most important works on the subject of cryptozoology, this book is perhaps a lot more scientific than one would expect. The author begins by talking about many real cases of animals which were once thought to be legendary but later proved to be completely real, and in the succeeding chapters presents multiple creatures which, although some may consider legendary, may also actually be real ones. For each chapter, he quotes a lot of primary sources referring to said beings, and even features, here and there, brief stories of creatures which are quite famous today, like the giant panda.

✓ (Adrienne) Hew, *50 Ways to Eat Cock* \*

A recipe book including roosters, aka. "cocks", with some occasional puns. Strangely, and unlike one would expect in this kind of book, the author only included photos of the prepared dishes in a very limited number of recipes.

✓ (Naoki) Higashida, *Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8: A Young Man's Voice From the Silence of Autism*

Kind of a sequel to the work below, this one presents

blog posts from an autistic young man from Japan, on the most varied topics. Compared to the one below, it is perhaps more focused on continuing topics, but I didn't feel it was as interesting.

✓ (Naoki) Higashida, *The Reason I Jump*

Written by a 13 year old with autism from Japan, this book essentially presents him trying to answer several questions about his condition. It is an interestingly candid view of autism itself, with the author even admitting, at some points, that he doesn't have all the answers people would like to read.

• (Godfrey) Higgins, *Anacalypsis* \*

✓ (Thomas Wentworth) Higginson, *Tales of the Enchanted Islands of the Atlantic* \*

The title of this work is a bit misleading. It does feature some tales about famous legendary islands of the past, but others are simply stories in which those same elements play a very minor role, such as Merlin's and King Arthur's (just to mention two of them).

Overall, it is a pleasing work, but one should be aware that at least some of the tales are retold in a bit of a

changed or censored way, as one can easily see in Merlin's plot line and his relationship with a certain young lady.

✓ (Gilbert) Highet, *The Classical Tradition: Greek and Roman Influences on Western Culture*

Perhaps one of the most interesting scholarly books I have ever read, it traces how the literary works of the Ancient Greeks and Romans ended up influencing western culture progressively across the centuries. This work explains the whole process in a very simple way, chapter after chapter, and some of them even allow you to learn much more than you'd be expecting, e.g. the one on Shakespeare explains how that author learned about the information he uses in his plays without having fully read the ancient sources, and the one on the famous "querelle des anciens et des modernes" traces the essential steps of the battles between the authors who supported the ancients and those who preferred the newer works. This book also contains significant bibliography and extensive notes, in case you want to explore the topic even further.

✓ (Thomas D.) Hill, *Prose Solomon and Saturn and*

*Adrian and Ritheus*

A complete study on the medieval text known both as *Solomon and Saturn* and *Adrian and Ritheus* (their content appears to be essentially the same, only the name of the main characters being changed). It contains the original text, in Old English, and a modern English translation, along with a very precious commentary to the original work.

- Hippocrates, *Da Fetotomia*<sup>16</sup>
- Hippocrates, *Da Superfetação*
- Hippocrates, *Das Doenças das Jovens*
- Hippocrates, *Das Mulheres Inférteis*
- Hippocrates, *Dos Fetos de Oito Meses*

✓ Hippocrates, *Oath*

Hippocrates' famous *Oath* was, ideally, a set of promises that medical doctors had to adhere to in order to learn and practise their profession. Unfortunately, nowadays it is only a merely symbolic

---

16 These works by Hippocrates were read in a recent Portuguese translation. They didn't seem to have any kind of relevant mythological information.

procedure, with most doctors not even knowing about its full content. Nonetheless, the original work, much adapted across the centuries, does feature some references to the gods related to healing.

✓ Hippolytus of Rome, *Apostolic Tradition*

An early treatise on liturgy of the (so-called) Catholic Church, possibly from the 3rd century AD.

✓ Hippolytus of Rome, *Refutation of all heresies*

A partially-lost catalogue of pagan and gnostic beliefs.

✓ Hirohiko Araki, *Manga in Theory and Practice*

I had assumed this was a theoretical and practical guide on Japanese "Manga", but instead it is more of a "how to" for the subject and its ways. It works best if you are familiar with the author's previous work.

✓ (Alex) Hirsch, *The Book of Bill (Gravity Falls)* \*

A very random book which is seemingly an addition to the lore of the cartoon show "Gravity Falls". Although I am unfamiliar with its plot, it deserves to be noted that this book in itself contains some noteworthy philosophical questions and repeated references to pop

culture it itself.

✓ (Adolf) Hitler, *Mein Kampf* \*

I read this book out of pure curiosity, and it fascinated me that it contained nothing extremely dangerous, unlike one would suppose. Instead, I found it to contain the biography of a man who was a product of his time and circumstances, and I was left wondering if any of us, in similar circumstances, wouldn't have acted in the exact same way he did. I really think this is one of those books that, instead of being ostracized, should be read in context, potentially so that history does not end up repeating itself.

✓ (Michael A.) Hoffman II, *They Were White and They Were Slaves: The Untold Story of the Enslavement of Whites in Early America*

In spite of talking about an important and seldom-discussed subject, that of white slavery, this book is way far from interesting. The author simply presents, time and again, quotes that provide evidence for the existence of white slavery in the periods discussed, and that is only it. The work is super informative and even thought-provoking, but also not really pleasing to



read at all.

✓ (E. T. A.) Hoffmann, *Nutcracker and Mouse-King*

The fictional work behind the famous "The Nutcracker" ballet, this is the story of Maria, a young girl who receives a very special nutcracker toy for Christmas. Although the story is most unexpected at every corner, including an almost-unpredictable ending, I did not find it particularly enjoyable, perhaps because the plot is also, and overall, too contrived.

✓ (Heinrich) Hoffmann, *Slovenly Peter Reformed*

A sequel to the work below (I could not find its original name), in which the titular Peter stops misbehaving and starts being a good boy. The author also briefly alludes to some of the stories in his previous work, further emphasizing the idea this is indeed a direct sequel to it.

✓ (Heinrich) Hoffmann, *Struwwelpeter*

Written in the middle of the XIX century, this is a compilation of ten children's stories in which the main characters, children themselves, are always punished for their misdeeds. Although the original work still

seems to be notable in Germany today, people from other countries may have seen some of its unusual images in internet memes.

- ✓ (R. Joseph) Hoffmann, *Jesus Outside the Gospels*

A simple book about how Jesus was seen in the oldest textual sources available to us. The author quotes directly from many of them, but at some points I found his arguments to be far from compelling.

- ✓ (Harry A.) Hoffner Jr., *Hittite Myths* \*

A translation of Hittite stories of a mythological nature. They feature short introductions (i.e. ones almost insufficient to the subject at hand, since most potential readers won't be familiar with the subject at all), and very few explanatory notes. Overall, and although I really wanted to learn more about these stories, I found this specific edition to be very dry and hard to follow.

- ✓ Homer?, *Battle of the Frogs and Mice*

Of disputed authorship, this presents a somewhat

funny battle between those two groups of animals, in a style very similar to Homer's.

✓ Homer<sup>17</sup>, *Iliad*

If you're reading these lines, chances are that you already know what the *Iliad* is all about. In case you don't, let me make this perfectly clear – this is the very first primary source that you have to read, if you're interested in Greek Mythology. Almost every other work of the Greeks and Romans depends on it, and so it is crucially important that you know it in order to best understand all other works and Homer's own place in their literary tradition.

✓ Homer?, *Margites* (f)

Attributed to Homer by some, apparently this was the comical story of the dumbest of all men. However, very scant fragments from it reached us, and so it is difficult to know more about its precise plot.

---

17 In these lines I'm leaving aside the famous "Homeric Question". All the readers need to know is that these poems were once attributed to one Homer, regardless of whether he really existed or not.

✓ Homer, *Odyssey*

Although slightly less important than the *Iliad*, this was another work with a deep impact in all the literature of the Antiquity. For that same reason, if you still don't know what this epic poem is all about, I strongly suggest you read it just after the *Iliad*.

- (David) Hook, *The Arthur of the Iberians: The Arthurian Legends in the Spanish and Portuguese Worlds* \*

✓ (Jerry) Hopkins, *Elvis: The Biography* \*

A very extensive biography of Elvis, which was apparently even updated with new information across time. It quotes extensively from people who met him, and it seems to go even above and beyond when one would usually seek in this kind of work.

✓ (Keith) Hopkins, *Wonders of the World: The Colosseum*

An introductory work on the Colosseum, essentially talking about its history from the very beginning up to our own day and age. Although it presents all of its

content in a very simple way, unfortunately it also frequently quotes from works that it doesn't precisely name, making it hard to find some of them.

✓ Horace, *Ars Poetica*

Along with Aristotle's *Poetics*, this work is among the most important for literary criticism in the Antiquity.

✓ Horace, *Carmen Saeculare*

A mythological and religious song which was sung at the occasion of Secular Games.

- Horace, *Epodes*
- Horace, *Odes*
- Horace, *Satires*

✓ Horapollo, *Hieroglyphica* \*

Supposedly a treatise on how to read the Egyptian Hieroglyphs. However, what it really does is attempting to see mystical meanings behind them, along the lines of "they [i.e. the Ancient Egyptians] write eternity by the combination of a sun and a moon, because those luminaries never die". It is a very disappointing work, if you expect from it anything more than such vague

mystical allusions.

- ✓ (Paulo Lemos) Horta, *The Annotated Arabian Nights – Tales from the 1001 Nights* \*

A volume with plenty of information about the work commonly known as *Arabian Nights*. Although it does not include all the tales, as I was expecting, it does feature extensive information and comments on the tales it contains, from the most famous ones to some the reader may not yet be particularly familiar with. Overall, it is an interesting work if you want to know more about the original compilation, but readers should definitely be warned that not all the original stories are present here.

- ✓ (Paulo Lemos) Horta, *Marvellous Thieves: Secret Authors of the Arabian Nights*

This book talks about those people who “composed” and “translated” to English and French the book commonly known as the *Arabian Nights*. It tells their stories and how their personal journeys through life may have impacted their literary production.

- ✓ (Harry) Houdini, *A Magician Among the Spirits*

A seldom read, and yet profoundly interesting, in which the famous magician attempts to disprove all the aspects behind Spiritism, going as far as attacking those who practised it through their alleged mystical powers. It is quite an amusing read, as it shows the real truth behind many strategies and techniques used by those who promoted séances and a belief in the world of spirits.

- ✓ (Harry) Houdini, *Houdini Exposes the Tricks Used by the Boston Medium 'Margery'*

In this short work, the author not only exposes the basic trick used by said medium, but in a secondary sequence also exposes the trick used by Joaquín Argamasilla, who claimed he could see through opaque unpainted objects.

- ✓ (Harry) Houdini, *Miracle Mongers and Their Methods: A Complete Exposé* \*

About how Fire Eaters, Sword Swallowers, Strong Men, and other similar figures, perform their respective arts. The work also presents some of the most famous figures related to each of those arts.

- ✓ (Harry) Houdini, *The Right Way to Do Wrong: An Exposé of Successful Criminals* \*

A work on how different kinds of criminals do their misdeeds, with information seemingly collected from sources the author met all over the world. I did not find it particularly interesting, unless you have a very special interest in this exact topic.

- ✓ (L. Ron) Hubbard, *Admissions*

A kind of document preserving an attempt at usage of sympathetic magic, in which the author openly admits his many flaws. It seems the fact he was completely obsessed with sex was one of the smallest ones, but other lines presented here do show that he was far from a believable man, and that he knew he was simply lying to people about a ton of things. He also seemed to have absolutely no self-confidence at all.

- ✓ (L. Ron) Hubbard, *Revolt in the Stars*

Best known as the work which inspired the mythology of Scientology, this is actually a boring and pretty absurd work, a science-fiction work about a space revolt in which the good guys suffer near-endless significant losses and the bad ones are barely



punished. In fact, the work is so bad that in order to establish how evil the bad guys are, they even kill a little girl carrying a stuffed animal. Avoid both the book and the fake religion behind it.

- ✓ (Richard) Huber, *Treasury of Fantastic and Mythological Creatures*

This work just contains over 1000 images of mythological creatures from various sources. The text is minimal – it just identifies the creature, and sometimes reports where the representation came from – but if you are looking for representations of monsters from the times of yore, this is probably the source that may help you with that.

- ✓ Hugh of Fouillooy, *Aviary* \*

A medieval bestiary focusing, naturally, just on birds. It can be divided into two main sections, the first one focusing extensively on the dove, hawk, turtledove and sparrow, while the second focuses in other birds, but with a much lesser degree of detail.

- ✓ (David) Hughes, *The Greatest Movies Never Made?*

This is a book about movies which were never made, explaining how the initial concept was eventually fine tuned, dropped, or even made into a very significantly different form. It is interesting because it shows how one story can be told in many different ways, or eventually changed very significantly.

✓ (David) Hume, *Natural History of Religion*

An essay on the origin and evolution of religions. The author does make some interesting points in both those areas.

✓ (Ronald) Hutton, *The Witch: A History of Fear, from Ancient Times to the Present* \*

A work on how the figure of the witch was born and evolved across the centuries. It is filled with interesting information, along with reference to many sources that can be further explored by the reader if they are indeed interested in this subject.

✓ (Marc) Huys, *Euripides and the Tales from Euripides: Sources of Apollodoros' Bibliotheca?*

A research paper on the fact that some of the information from Apollodorus' *Bibliotheca* may have

come from synopsis of the tragedians' plays. Although, on paper, this may seem possible, it is also noteworthy that it is hard to separate those mentions from the other sources the same author also uses.

✓ (Pae-Gang) Hwang, *Korean Myths and Folk Legends*

A compilation of 28 stories coming from Korea. Each of them is complemented with a bit of bibliographical information and, sometimes, black-and-white photos from the places mentioned in the story.

✓ Hydatius, *Chronicle*

A continuation of Eusebius of Caesarea's and Saint Jerome's own chronicles, essentially covering the V century AD. It seems to be particularly valuable for the history of Hispania of that period, which this author knew based on his personal experience.

✓ Hyginus, *Astronomica*

Usually attributed to one Hyginus (maybe not even the same one who wrote the *Fabulae*?), this is a work reporting the myths associated with each of the constellations.

✓ Hyginus, *Fabulae*

Hyginus' *Fables* is arguably the most important Latin work on Mythology. It preserves many myths, both in famous and more uncommon versions, along with several lists of mythological content (such as "Those who killed their family members"). One could wonder where did the author get all his information, but regardless of that point this is a crucial work for the study of Mythology in the Roman Empire.

## 10- Section I

- ✓ Iamblichus, *Life of Pythagoras* \*

Despite its name, this treatise talks not only (lightly) about the life of Pythagoras itself, but also extensively about the many beliefs of the Pythagoreans. That second area seems to be the bulk of the work, and it is specially important because it was seemingly compiled by now-lost documents that Iamblichus had access to.

- Iamblichus, *On the Mysteries* \*

- ✓ Ibn Muqana, *Poems*

I read these through what was seemingly a Portuguese translation based on a Spanish translation and published by the "Associação Cultural de Cascais". The book had a small introduction and a translation of less than 10 poems. I cannot truly judge their original merit, but one of them is noteworthy for mentioning Alcabideche and its windmills.

- ✓ (Solomon) Ibn Saqbel, *Asher in the Harem*

A short medieval jewish story about a womanizer man

who falls in love with a supposedly really beautiful woman. The plot twist at the end is completely unexpected and worthy of note.

- ✓ (Azal) Ikhlāq, *Association of Sleep Paralysis with PTSD Symptoms, Pathological Worry and Perceived Stress*

Conducted in Pakistan, this study shows a positive correlation between the factors in its title.

- ✓ Ilimalku, *Ugaritic Baal Cycle*

Written down by this scribe, but perhaps not even actually created by him, in its current form this work still preserves to us some adventures related to the god El, his wife, and how his son Baal first got his own palace.

- ✓ (Judika) Illes, *The Encyclopedia of Spirits: The Ultimate Guide to the Magic of Fairies, Genies, Demons, Ghosts, Gods, and Goddesses* \*

I had very mixed feelings about this particular work. If it does feature enormous amounts of information on the figures stated in its subtitle, the content it offers us is often made up, unreliable or very open to

discussion, such as when the author states that Semele was derived from a previous figure named Zemele, or when they talk about Ataegina, a former goddess from Portugal we (really) know close to nothing about. Where were they even getting their of information? Although you can find an extensive bibliography at the end of the book, that's far from helpful when you're never told about what comes from which particular source (if any at all).

✓ Ilyeon, *Samguk yusa* \*

This work on the history of early Korea written near the end of the XIII century is truly fascinating, since it fuses together legends and facts in a completely seamless way, with later chapters presenting even more legends and stories related to the same civilization. The work is made even more interesting by the fact that the author used multiple literary sources to construct his own version of the events, and even tells us what specific sources he is quoting from. Perhaps this is the most significant literary source for those who want to be introduced to the history and legends of Korea.

- (A. C.) Inchbold, *Lisbon & Cintra* \*
- ✓ (M. V.) Ingram, *An Authenticated History of the Famous Bell Witch*

The most complete extant work on the events related to the Bell Witch, the author not only tells his version of the facts, about 75 years later, but also seems to preserve a kind of diary of one of the people involved, and also interviewed many people who either testified the events themselves, or heard of them from those who were part of the actual events. The result is definitely intriguing, and if you're interested in the original story this is undoubtedly the source you have to read for yourself.

- (Thomas) Inman, *Ancient Pagan and Modern Christian Symbolism*

- ✓ (Saint) Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses* \*

Referencing some heretical sects and how they contrast with the "correct" Christian Faith.

- ✓ Isidore of Seville, *Chronicon*

A very succinct history, from the supposed time in



which God created the world up to the author's own day and age (and so, probably written around 616 AD). In his preface, the author explicitly mentions he is following up on the work of his predecessors, one of the most significant being Eusebius of Caesarea<sup>18</sup>.

✓ Isidore of Seville, *Etymologiae* \*

Certainly the author's most famous work, I once heard it best defined as a compilation of universal knowledge. And, unlike the name could lead us to believe, it isn't all about etymologies, instead preserving the knowledge of the Antiquity in many different areas – unfortunately, Mythology was not one of them. It is not a particularly fun book to read one entry after another, but if you're looking for a specific piece of information, it's worth a shot to look into this almost-encyclopedic work.

✓ Isidore of Seville, *History of the Kings of the Goths*

A brief history of the events and conquests of the

---

18 Likely referring to that author's *Church History*, already described above.

Goths, from the beginning of their interactions with the Romans up to the author's own time.

- ✓ (José Francisco de) Isla, *Friar Gerund de Campazas*

A novel from XVIII century Spain, about a friar and the development of his rhetorical skills. Provided you can understand the historical context and the references in Latin, it has many funny moments.

- ✓ (Publius Baebius) Italicus, *Ilias Latina*

A first-century AD sum-up of the *Iliad*, written in Latin. It condenses the main events of Homer's poem, in around 1070 verses, with some extremely minor differences from the original here and there.

- ✓ (Jean Marc Gaspard) Itard, *An Historical Account of the Discovery and Education of a Savage Man, Or of the First Developments, Physical and Moral, of the Young Savage Caught in the Woods Near Aveyron, in the Year 1798*

This second-person report on the finding and education of Victor of Aveyron deserves to be noted specially for the fact it was written by the man who educated him.

In spite of this curious aspect, the work itself does not follow a chronological order, and does not tell the whole story (Itard died before his subject), leaving the reader's knowledge of it incomplete.

✓ (Philip) Ivanhoe, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*

I read this work while looking into some aspects of Chinese Philosophy, and here I did find what I was looking for – it provides some basic information on several of their philosophers, along with key quotes and passages from Confucius, Laozi and Mencius, among others.



## 11- Section J

- ✓ (Albert) Jack, *Loch Ness Monsters and Raining Frogs: The World's Most Puzzling Mysteries Solved*

Quite an interesting, and often funny, book on mysteries, some of them even legendary ones (such as Mary Celeste's). The author tries to solve them, but it is certainly interesting that in some cases, such as Chase Vault's or Spring-heeled Jack's, he openly admits he is unable to solve them. Such honesty certainly contrasts with other books of this same genre, in which other authors always try to offer solutions to every single mystery, sometimes offering completely crazy and far-fetched solutions just for the sake of it.

- ✓ (Albert) Jack, *Pop Goes the Weasel: The Secret Meanings of Nursery Rhymes* \*

Now, this work presents many nursery rhymes from England, which it retells in full (and sometimes, even in alternate versions), and then it tries to explain their meaning and their origin. I did not particularly enjoy it,

but I do understand its major appeal for people who grew up with these rhymes under their belt.

- ✓ (Albert) Jack, *Red Herrings and White Elephants: The Origins of the Phrases We Use Everyday* \*

This work explains, through short stories, the origin of many idiomatic expressions from the english language. It should be noted that it goes as far as including a chapter on expressions derived from the Antiquity which are still being used nowadays. However, if I had to point out two minor problems about it, I'd say that some chapters are presented in alphabetical order but others aren't, which is a bit confusing, and that some information may not be fully correct (e.g. the explanation behind Dodo's name).

- ✓ (Helen Hunt) Jackson, *A Century of Dishonor* \*  
Of cultural significance in the US, this work published near the end of the XIX century essentially details the many injustices that Native Americans had been subject to in the past, and continue to be subjected to in the author's own time.

- ✓ (John G.) Jackson, *Pagan Origins of the Christ Myth*

A somewhat brief book in which the author presents some of the parallelisms between Christianity and the religions that preceded it. It features nothing too impressive, instead just repeating the ideas common in the genre, such as the resemblances between Jesus and Jesus.

- ✓ (Simcha) Jacobovici, *Enslaved: The Sunken History of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*

This work can be divided into two main sequences, one where the authors talk about some seemingly random episodes of slave trade, and one where they follow some of the adventures of the "Diving With a Purpose" organization. This second part is far from interesting, while the first is crowded with unsupported information and factual mistakes, at one point even claiming that the Portuguese did so-and-so in Brazil 50 years before they even reached the place. I truly felt this is a book you can read if you want to get a confirmation of how horrible slave trade was, since the authors point that out every step of the road, but if you're looking for a more unbiased report, one where Africans aren't

constantly made out to be saints and the White Man is always the most devilish of all beings, you clearly will not find it here.

- (Simcha) Jacobovici, *The Jesus Family Tomb: The Discovery, the Investigation, and the Evidence That Could Change History* \*
- ✓ (Simcha) Jacobovici, *The Lost Gospel: Decoding the Ancient Text That Reveals Jesus' Marriage to Mary the Magdalene*

This book argues that *Joseph and Aseneth*, a text from the first centuries of our era, preserves an encrypted retelling of the life of Jesus, including of his mystical marriage to Mary Magdalene. Although the author makes some good points here and there, in some sections his arguments also take huge leaps of faith, such as when he links two entirely different groups named "Essenes" solely based on their name.

If you're interesting this topic, what I can suggest is for you to read *Joseph and Aseneth*, which is presented in translation in the annexes to this book, and afterwards go through the arguments the author makes about it – in my case, doing so made some of



Jacobovici's arguments seem circumstantial and significantly misleading.

- ✓ (A.J.) Jacobs, *The Know-it-all: One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World\**

Certainly an unorthodox book, in which the author attempts to read the entire *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, and reports on what he found more interesting through its entries. So far so good, it's an unusually interesting idea, but the author also intersects the idea with the retelling of many episodes of his own life, some of which I felt ran too long.

- ✓ (A.J.) Jacobs, *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible*

For this book, the author essentially tried to live a year following as many rules from the Bible as possible. Overall, the idea is an interesting one, but since he was raised in a Jewish environment, he plays a lot more attention to the Old Testament, and little later to the New one. He also openly admits that he could have tried some things he never did, like talking to a few

very specific religious groups. So, although the idea, in itself, is a good one, ultimately I'd say the main goal behind the whole book was not achieved as well as it could have been, which disappointed me quite a bit.

- ✓ (Thorkild) Jacobsen, *The Treasures of Darkness: A History of Mesopotamian Religion*

This presents a succinct history of the Mesopotamian Religion across the millennia – and, as you may easily realize, 1000 years is a very long time, but the information we still have is very limited. What this book, written in a simple way, does is complementing the extant literary sources with extensive comments by the author, producing more or less complete versions of the original myths.

- ✓ Jacobus de Voragine, *Golden Legend* \*

Certainly the most famous medieval collection of lives of saints. However, one should definitely take into account this is not a completely historical work; instead, Jacobus de Voragine only compiled the information available to him, without critically evaluating whether any of the stories he collected were actually true. For that reason, any potential readers

should be sceptical over the information presented in this work, even if some of the stories, like Saint Christopher's, are so famous that they are still known in our own day and age.

✓ (Mário) Jacques, *Actores na Toponímia de Lisboa\**

I came across this work by pure chance in a library, it describes what streets in Lisbon have the names of actors and briefly tells the reader about each of their lives. It also contains many photos and drawings, making this a very pleasing work if you're somehow interested in the subject at hand.

✓ Jaime Lopes Dias, *Etnografia da Beira (v. I)*

This first volume of the work presents old legends, mores, beliefs and superstitions from the area of Portugal mentioned in the title. The first of these three areas is particularly noteworthy, with its only issue being that the author offers little to no commentary on the content he presents, which in some cases is definitely needed.

✓ Jaime Lopes Dias, *Etnografia da Beira (v. II) \**

This second volume of the same work focuses on traditional songs and song-related games from the same area of Portugal.

- (John A.) Jakle, *Remembering Roadside America*
- ✓ (Baland) Jalal, *How to Make the Ghosts in my Bedroom Disappear? Focused-Attention Meditation Combined with Muscle Relaxation (MR Therapy)—A Direct Treatment Intervention for Sleep Paralysis*

In this brief paper the author presents the subject of sleep paralysis, suggests it can be countered with some form of meditation, and curiously even theorizes why traditional prayers may have worked to dispel this kind of thing before.

- ✓ (Montague Rhodes) James, *The Apocryphal New Testament* \*

One of multiple books with this title (which makes it a bit hard to find it), this one was published in 1924. It contains references to apocryphal works related to the New Testament, either presenting their extant fragments, a sum-up of their content, or the entire

text. It is a noteworthy work, but certainly superseded by more recent ones on the same subject.

✓ (King) James I, *Daemonologie*

By King James I of England, through a fictional dialogue he here defends the existence of witches and how real their powers are. It is a very simple introduction to the topic, but it allows readers to see what beliefs were held about witchcraft in the XVI century.

✓ (W. C.) Jameson, *Unsolved Mysteries of the Old West* \*

Most of the mysteries covered in this book go along the lines of "what happened to the person so-and-so". Perhaps the subject is interesting for Americans, who may be better familiar with all said characters, but personally I did not enjoy the book very much, likely because I am unaware of the background of the people covered here.

- (Richard) Janko, [Aristotle] *Poetics: With the Tractatus Coislinianus, Reconstruction of Poetics II, and the Fragments of the On Poets*\*

✓ Jayadeva, *Gita Govinda*

A compilation of poems on the loves of Krishna, with some notable, and profoundly beautiful, eroticism present in them. They're also noteworthy for one of the first compositions, in which the poet succinctly mentions the other avatars of Vishnu.

✓ (Elizabeth) Jeffreys, *Four Byzantine Novels* \*

A compilation of four novels from the late byzantine period. Well, technically they're three plus one fragmentary one, but they are here made available in translation for seemingly the first time. The novels are by Theodorus Prodromos, Eustathios Makrembolites, Constantine Manasses and Niketas Eugenianos.

• (Elizabeth) Jeffreys, *The Oxford Handbook of Byzantine Studies*

✓ (Saint) Jerome, *De Viris Illustribus*

Short biographies of 135 writers the author himself considered as specially important.

✓ (Saint) Jerome, *Epistle 57, To Pammachius on*

*the Best Method of Translating*

Defending himself from charges of having corrupted a text while translating it, in this epistle Saint Jerome talks about how difficult it is to translate a text – is the best way to do it by retaining the exact words, or the sense itself? – and provides several examples of translation issues in biblical texts.

✓ (Saint) Jerome, *Epistle 60*

I came across this epistle while researching on consolation literature. In it, Jerome consoles a friend for the death of a family member, and some of the arguments he uses can indeed be very profitable for ourselves, when facing similar circumstances.

✓ (Saint) Jerome, *Against Jovinianus* \*

A treatise against the doctrines of an (otherwise unknown?) Jovinian.

✓ João Bautista de Castro, *Mappa de Portugal Antigo e Moderno* \*

From the middle of the XVIII century, this book contains a lot of information and multiple listings related to Portugal. Two of them are specially

noteworthy here, since they contain all the most important relics existing in Portugal, and also a reference to miraculous images found all over the country.

- ✓ João Brandão, *Apontamentos (...) Escritos nas Prisões do Limoeiro*

Written by a minor figure of the history of Portugal near the end of the XIX century, here he defends himself from the many accusations that people made him at the time, and which eventually led him to be banished from the country. The work is specially noteworthy not just as a first-person defence, but also because it features some evidence in his favour (which the author quotes), and a listing of information on who the true criminals were for many of the crimes that were being associated with him.

- ✓ (Geraldo) Joffily, *A Inscrição Fenícia da Paraíba*  
An article recapping all the extant information about a rock with Phoenician writing supposedly found near the end of the XIX century in the Brazilian state of Paraíba. It's all a forgery, it seems, to the point that the rock itself was never truly found.



✓ John Cassian, *Conferences* \*

Written by a fourth century monk, it summarizes some discussions the author had with other monks and ascetics on many important aspects of spiritual life.

✓ John Climacus, *Ladder of Divine Ascent*

Written around the VII century of our era, this is essentially an ascetic manual, providing contemplative information on how to progress through the metaphorical ladder that conducts to God. It does provide plenty of room for thought, and it deserves to be read slowly.

✓ John of Biclaro, *Chronicle*

A medieval chronicle, apparently written in what is now Portugal, that covers the events between 568 and 590 AD. The text, in itself, starts very brief, but as time goes on it becomes a bit more complex, likely because the author may have seen at least some of those events by himself.

✓ John of Damascus, *An Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*

The title says it pretty well for this one, the work itself is a presentation of the essential elements of Orthodox Christianity. Some chapters are indeed informative about such a topic, while others have more to do with the culture of the time, e.g. the division of the parts of the world.

✓ John of Damascus(?), *Barlaam and Josaphat* \*  
Typically – but uncertainly – attributed to this author, the story of Barlaam and Josaphat was popular in the Middle Ages and is essentially a christianized version of the story of Siddhartha Gautama. The essential elements of the story are very similar, but instead of becoming the Buddha, here the hero ends up repeatedly preaching Christianity instead. The work also contains several references to the old religions, essentially criticising them as false under the usual reasons presented by Christian authors.

- John of Nikiu, *The Chronicle of John, Bishop of Nikiu* \*

✓ (Donald S.) Johnson, *Phantom Islands & of the Atlantic – The Legends of Seven Lands That*

*Never Were \**

This is one of those books in which the real interest depends on the reader itself. Essentially, the author tells the (true) stories of seven islands which were, at one point or another, supposed to have existed somewhere. All of them had some legendary elements, and so the author tried to understand where fiction ends and truth begins, going as far as telling us the backstory of each particular island and what eventually became of each of them.

✓ (Denys) Johnson-Davies, *The Island of Animals*  
A modern adaptation of a medieval islamic philosophical text, in which humans come across an island where only animals and Djinn live. As they try to take advantage of the animals, this leads to a debate on whether animals are the slaves of men or not. Although men eventually win and are declared superior to animals, it is also proved that this does not simply make the latter their slaves.

- (David) Johnston, *The Cambridge Companion to Roman Law \**

- ✓ (Ruth A.) Johnston, *All Things Medieval: An Encyclopedia of the Medieval World* \*

Although the idea behind this book is a notable one – it purposes to be a succinct reference to various aspects of medieval life and society – the author usually provides too few information about each entry, meaning you either already know something about them and may be wanting to learn few new pieces of information, or you'll be given a very incomplete introduction to them. However, on the good side, she also provides some bibliography related to each entry.

- ✓ Johnston McCulley, *The Mark of Zorro*

The first of all stories containing the character of Zorro, which was originally published under the title of *The Curse of Capistrano*. The adventure itself is amusing, mostly due to the way it repeatedly contrasts Zorro's own strength and abilities with those of his alter-ego.

- ✓ (Henri Louis) Joly, *Legend in Japanese Art* \*

Quite an interesting (and long) book, which succinctly describes myths and legends from Japan and, occasionally, explicitly mentions how their characters

and main events are portrayed in Art. It also contains many illustrations, but they are far from impressive, since they're usually small and almost negligenciable.

- ✓ (Maurice) Joly, *The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu* \*

In this XIX century satirical work, the character Machiavelli defends how his original ideas could be applied to a modern country from Europe. A veiled critic to Napoleon III, this is not a very interesting read in our day and age, but it is famous for having been plagiarized – with a complete removal of the satirical context – in *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

- ✓ (David E.) Jones, *An Instinct For Dragons* \*

Why do several independent cultures around the globe believe in dragon-like creatures? That's a very good question, which this book attempts to answer from an anthropological and psychological standpoint.

Ultimately, the author only partially convinced me of his theory, but if the topic at hand interests you, this book is certainly worth reading.

- ✓ (Diana Wynne) Jones, *The Tough Guide to*

*Fantasyland \**

Somewhat of a modern encyclopedia on the elements usually present in fantasy stories. It is clearly written in a very satirical way, but still interesting nonetheless.

- ✓ (Francisco de Almeida) Jordam, *Relação do Castello e Serra de Cintra e do que ha que ver em toda ella*

A description of the monuments, and other places to see, near Sintra. It was written in the mid XVIII century, but almost everything it says still applies today.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Autenticidade em epigrafia – As inscrições de Cuba e Vila Nova de Baronia*

A research paper on two, potentially forged, roman inscriptions from Portugal.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Cascais e os Seus Cantinhos\**

A book collecting many of the author's articles across the years, focusing specifically on other areas around the village of Cascais.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Divindades Indígenas sob o Domínio Romano em Portugal: Subsídios para o seu Estudo* \*

Sort of an encyclopedia on native deities from Portugal in the Roman period, the author provides potential readings for each piece of epigraphic evidence and also the opinions of his predecessors. It contains plenty of information regarding each of them, and there are even some photos near the end of the book.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Dos Segredos de Cascais* \*
- A book collecting many of the author's articles across the years, focusing on lesser-known places around the village of Cascais.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Epigrafia – As Pedras Que Falam*

A very interesting introduction manual to roman epigraphy, essentially presenting almost everything you need to know in order to understand its basics. It also contains, near the end, a small dictionary of all the major abbreviations, along with many bibliographical and virtual resources important for those who want to learn more about this area of

knowledge.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Leite de Vasconcelos e as inscrições romanas – flagrantes de um quotidiano vivido*

This article reveals the location of a seemingly lost epigraphic element, but also talks about two identifications that may have intrigued Leite de Vasconcelos himself. Besides, it contains a photo of a very intriguing mosaic, in which a roman man, seemingly burned by an overly hot bath, chases a slave, likely to punish her for her misdeed.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Religião dos Romanos, Religião de Sempre?*

A short paper presenting the existence of some parallelisms between the religion of Ancient Rome and those of today.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *Salacia Imperatoria Urbs*  
Some considerations about the city of Salacia, which was in Portugal in Roman times. The author raises some good questions, but also notes he is not the best person to solve them all, which is both unexpected and



intriguing.

- ✓ José D'Encarnação, *O Sexo dos Deuses Romanos*

A short research paper on the gender of some roman gods mentioned in epigraphic remains from Portugal. It is also a chapter from the aforementioned manual by the same author.

- ✓ José Paulo Cavalcanti Filho, *Fernando Pessoa: uma quase-autobiografia*

An extended biography of the poet Fernando Pessoa, pretty much built with his poems, letters, and information from those who knew him. It is ordered in many different sections, not all of them directly chronological, and also contains sections on his many heteronyms.

- ✓ (Flavius) Josephus, *Against Apion*

A work in which Josephus defends his personal belief on Judaism.

- ✓ (Flavius) Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* \*

Another apology for Judaism. However, this one

presents plenty of historical information on that religion, certainly useful for those who are looking into some of its more historical aspects.

✓ (Flavius) Josephus, *Jewish War* \*

Josephus' personal report on the Jewish-Roman War of the first century of our era. His words are specially important due to the fact he appears to have personally intervened in it.

✓ (Flavius) Josephus, *Life*

In some editions this is an appendix to the *Antiquities of the Jews*. Essentially, the author talks about his own life, from its humble beginnings up to the time in which Josephus is captured by the Romans and write his famous books.

✓ (Pseudo-)Josephus, *Discourse to the Greeks Concerning Hades*

This presents the views of a Christian from the first centuries of our era regarding Hell. It is particularly curious for the way in which it still intertwines clearly Jewish beliefs with ones from the new faith.

- ✓ (Rogelio) Jove y Bravo, *Mitos y Supersticiones de Asturias*

A rather succinct book which very briefly reports some myths and superstitions from the Asturias, in the north of Spain. At the end, the author also dedicates some additional lines to three mythological figures from the area.

- ✓ Joy of Satan Ministries, *Buddhism: Doctrine of Evil* \*

I came across this small booklet by complete accident and decided to give it a read out of pure curiosity derived from its strange title. I did not even get to half of its small number of pages, since it is poorly written and appears to make no real sense at all.

- ✓ (Andrew) Joyes, *Medieval Ghost Stories*

Despite its somewhat-misleading name, this work also preserves many medieval stories of miracles, marvels and prodigies. They're sometimes quite similar to the ones of the Antiquity.

- ✓ Juan de la Cueva, *Apuleio transformado em asno*

A XVI century poem regarding the main transformation from Apuleius' *Golden Ass*. It is a charming piece of iberian poetry.

✓ Juan de la Puente, *Roberto el Diablo*

A strange medieval romance about a man who is actually the son of the devil. Although, in itself, this may seem like a really interesting premise, it is also extensively misused, with the hero spending most of the work in penance for his early misdeeds.

✓ (Katharine Berry) Judson, *Myths and legends of Alaska*

This public-domain book can be read if you're just looking for a more unusual collection of myths.

✓ Julian, *Against the Galileans*

This work by Julian the Apostate contains a now infrequent defence of the pagan religions against Christianity. For that reason it is only partially extant, as it is obvious that Christians wanted to destroy it as quickly as possible.

✓ Julian, *The Caesars*

A satirical text, on the gods of Olympus throwing a party, to which they invite Alexander the Great and the most important Caesars of the Roman Empire. A small competition is then held among all of them, and Jesus Christ even makes a small, cameo-like, appearance near the end of the text, as Constantine's personal supporter.

✓ Júlio de Castilho, *Lisboa Antiga* \*

Naturally only available in Portuguese, through its many volumes the author discourses extensively on the many remnants of old Lisbon. Although the work has, here and there, some very interesting pieces of information, more often than not it seems to repeat itself and spend too much time on specific aspects that most readers would unlikely care about, such as when it spends over two hundreds of pages on the topics of the multiple aspects of the Ecclesiastical See. Besides, strangely enough, the summaries for some of the chapters tend to be somewhat misleading, and there's even a moment in which the author appears to be (fictionally or metaphorically, one would assume?!) visited by ghosts.

✓ Julius Caesar, *Gallic War*

Caesar's own description of the Gaulish War, in which he played a key role.

✓ Julius Caesar, *Civil War* \*

Another description, this time of the Civil War, in which Caesar himself also played a key role.

✓ Julius Exsuperantius, *Ac Sertorii Bellis Civilibus*

From the fifth or sixth century AD, this is a very short historical account of the rise of Gaius Marius and the subsequent civil war.

✓ (Carl) Jung, *Flying Saucers* \*

With a subtitle like "A modern myth of things seen in the sky", one would perhaps think this to be a very different book, but it is one about the psychological aspects of the entire phenomena, with a chapter on dreams, another on the cultural background of it, etc.

✓ (Carl) Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* \*

A biography of the author, written late in his life with the collaboration of one Aniela Jaffé. It seemed a bit boring to simply read page after page, but deserves to

be noted here as a biography of not only human events, but also of the psychological and mental development of the author himself.

✓ (Carl) Jung, *Seven Sermons to the Dead*

An unusual work... to describe it is difficult, besides the obvious Gnostic influence, but I always assumed that if you came across a copy of this, or the same author's *Red Book*, you already know what to expect from it.

✓ (K.) Junker, *Interpreting the Images of Greek Myths*

An introductory work on how to read and interpret the images related to Greek Myths. However, I do not recall anything too impressive about it, and so chances are that it probably didn't achieve its goal very well.

✓ Justin Martyr(?), *Discourse to the Greeks*

This author of this work, which likely wasn't Justin Martyr, here presents the main reasons which led him to convert to Christianity. Although this is a short composition, the author briefly alludes to many myths he considers shameful ones, some of which are a bit

obscure nowadays.

✓ Justin Martyr(?), *Exhortation to the Greeks*

This work presents some curious parallelisms between the ideas of the ancient (pagan) philosophers and the doctrines defended by Judaism and Christianity.

• Juvenal, *Satires*



## 12- Section K

- ✓ (David) Kalat, *A Critical History and Filmography of Toho's Godzilla Series*

I came across this book by complete accident, but in its second edition it is an interesting overview of the entire Godzilla series of movies and their production, from the very first one up to "Godzilla: Final Wars". Although the author succinctly recaps the plots of the movies, it should also be noted that he doesn't entirely spoil their content.

- ✓ (Anthony) Kaldellis, *A Cabinet of Byzantine Curiosities* \*

Although the idea behind this book is an intriguing one – it is a compilation of random curiosities and facts on the Byzantine Empire, synthesized around a few different topics – I couldn't help but feel that they vary widely in their interest. Some will leave you eager for more (in my case, I would have been interested in getting to know more about strange miracles), while others may certainly bore you (such as the chapter on natural disasters). Overall, this is a book you can have

some fun with, but which definitely has its ups and downs.

✓ Kalyanamalla, *Ananga Ranga*

A sex manual from the XV-XVI century India. It seems related to the (famous) *Kamasutra*, but it is shorter and simpler, focusing essentially on the love between husband and wife, perhaps – as I read somewhere – to help prevent them from separating. Even if read in an entirely different culture, at least it still gives plenty of room for thought and consideration.

✓ Kamo no Chomei, *Hojoki*

From the early XIII century Japan, this work presents the Buddhist idea of impermanence through past disasters which seemingly took place in the city of Kyoto. It also has some interesting philosophical sections, in spite of its (short) length.

✓ (Michitomo) Kanamori, *Kanamori's Life-Story, Told by Himself*

Written around the turn to the XX century, this work presents a personal conversion to Christianity in Japan. The author tells readers how he got into it, what shook

his faith, and how he later recovered. I found it particularly notable for alluding to some cultural practices which were still taking place in Japan even after centuries of Christianity having officially abandoned the country.

- ✓ (Kamla K.) Kapur, *Ganesha goes to Lunch – Classics from Mystic India*

This presents a compilation of classical stories from India, adapted for modern audiences. It talks a bit about the main gods and some of the most famous stories, but it also has a problem – although it succinctly introduces both the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, the stories it presents from both those famous works appear to be very secondary ones, instead of ones that would allow the reader to gain a more significant feeling of the real content of the originals. Apart from that issue, this can be an average introduction to the myths of Hinduism.

- ✓ (Nicholas J.) Karolides, *120 Banned Books*

A report on books that were banned in several cultures around the globe. Although there were many such examples in the Antiquity, this work focuses mostly on

more recent ones.

- ✓ (Melissa) Katsoulis, *Telling Tales: A History of Literary Hoaxes*

Although the title is a bit misleading, this quaint book is about modern literary hoaxes. For each of the books she presents, Katsoulis presents some background information, what the work is all about, and what eventually became of it. It is written in a simple way, and if you are interested in this kind of subject you'll likely enjoy it.

- ✓ (Hélène) Katz, *Cold Cases: Famous Unsolved Mysteries, Crimes, and Disappearances in America* \*
- Evidently focused on the US, this book presents some notable cases from that country which were originally unsolved (at least one of them was solved since then). For each case, the reader gets an introduction the story and how it developed, an information which the author later complements with some bibliography, for those who want to know more about each of the cases at hand.

- ✓ (Theodore N.) Kaufman, *Germany Must Perish!*

Published in 1941, this horrendous book by a Jewish author – which at points seems to touch complete insanity – argues that in order to prevent future wars all Germans should be sterilized so that their entire race disappears once and for all. It is perhaps most famous as the work that may have inspired the Nazi Party's own idea of killing all Jews, and likely the most shocking work you'll find across these pages.

- ✓ (Theodore N.) Kaufman, *No More German Wars! Being an outline of suggestions for their permanent cessation.*

A sequel to the above, published in 1942, it is a lot more mild than its predecessor, just providing some realistic suggestions to what to do in Germany after the Second World War, instead of going for absolutely horrendous things.

- ✓ (Sayumi) Kawauchi, *Once Upon a Time in Japan*  
A short collection of traditional stories from Japan, written in simple English, seemingly as part of a collection of stories for Japanese young children to read in this western language.

- A. Kazhdan, *A history of Byzantine literature*, vols. 1 and 2
- ✓ (Ezra Jack) Keats, *John Henry: An American Legend*

Undoubtedly written for a younger audience, this book is a sum-up of the essential plot of John Henry's legend, from North American folklore. The story is in verse and is extensively illustrated.

- ✓ (John A.) Keel, *The Mothman Prophecies*  
A supposedly non-fiction book which chronicles the apparition of a strange being in West Virginia, US, and many of the strange thing that occurred after that. It seems to be a classic of the paranormal genre, and the author at least tries to keep, more often than not, a sceptical view over the events, even when they start happening to himself.

- (Donald) Keene, *Anthology of Japanese Literature* \*

- ✓ (M. Lamar) Keene, *The Psychic Mafia*

Published in 1976, and today seemingly rare, this book

reveals the tricks that members of Spiritism use to manipulate their victims. Although the work in itself isn't too detailed, it does present said tricks and also reveals why the author ultimately decided to make them available to the public, which is particularly interesting for this kind of content.

- ✓ (George C.) Keidel, *The Évangile Aux Femmes, An Old-French Satire on Women* \*

A PhD thesis on the French medieval poem that gives the name to it. It is particularly noteworthy for presenting multiple versions of the poem in the same work.

- ✓ (Ruth Edna) Kelley, *The Book of Halloween*  
Seemingly the earliest book on the origin of the "Halloween" festival, but it should be noted that it is filled with incorrect, incomplete and biased information. However, it is still a good source for the traditions regarding this festival at the time, since the author mentions plenty of them from several different countries.

- (Stuart) Kelly, *The Book of Lost Books: An*

*Incomplete History of All the Great Books You'll  
Never Read \**

- ✓ (Ulrike) Kenens, *Greek Mythography at Work: The Story of Perseus from Pherecydes to Tzetzes*

This research article talks about the way the myth of Perseus was viewed in several classical sources and across a set period of time.

- ✓ (Yoshida) Kenko, *Tsurezuregusa* \*

A collection of usually short essays by a Buddhist monk in XIV century Japan. Some are short (and apparently, real) tales, while others are more like philosophical ideas.

- ✓ (Fergus) Kerr, *Thomas Aquinas – A Very Short Introduction*

When, in a previous chapter, I mentioned the *Summa Theologica*, I made it quite clear how complex that particular work was. Ultimately, that was what ended up driving me to read this unusual book; I hoped it could help me better understand the ideas of Thomas Aquinas, in particular his most famous work, and I'm



more than happy to report that it did help me finally understand most of it. If you too are stuck in the complex lines of the same work, I strongly suggest you too read this one.

✓ (Robert) Kirk, *The Secret Commonwealth* \*

Supposedly written at the end of the XVII century, this work preserves supposedly first-hand information on "second sight" and fairies from the author's own time.

✓ (Immaculate N.) Kizza, *The Oral Tradition of the Baganda of Uganda: A Study and Anthology of Legends, Myths, Epigrams and Folktales* \*

This is an unusual book which presents a study of the oral tradition of the Baganda people of the country of Uganda. It also contains a chapter reporting a few stories coming from those people and ordered by their main subject.

✓ (Stephen) Klimczuk, *Secret Places, Hidden Sanctuaries – Uncovering Mysterious Sites, Symbols, and Societies*

A book about mysterious and secret places and items from around the world. Although there are some minor

flaws here and there, overall the authors treat the topic consistently and do tend to offer an unbiased view of the topic at hand, providing lots of useful and interesting information in each of the many topics covered by this work.

- (Anne L.) Klinck, *An Anthology of Ancient and Medieval Woman's Song* \*
- ✓ (Peter) Knight, *Conspiracy Theories in American History: An Encyclopedia*

Basically an encyclopedia of conspiracy theories famous in the US. The authors briefly describe them and provide some bibliography for each, in case you want to learn more about them. If I had to point out a flaw to this work, is that sometimes it seems to be a bit too biased, through either way, on the way it covers its topics.

- ✓ (T. Sharper) Knowlson, *The Origins of Popular Superstitions and Customs* \*

The title perfectly explains what this book is all about, but it deserves to be added that it focuses on superstitions and customs from early XX century's

England. Overall, it tends to be a very uncritical work.

- (Bernard) Knox, *The Norton Book of Classical Literature* \*
- (Jana) Kocourkova, *Asperger syndrome related suicidal behavior: two case studies*

✓ (Jim) Korkis, *Who's Afraid of the Song of the South? And Other Forbidden Disney Stories*

The first part of this work retells the background of the banned Disney movie *Song of the South*, along with providing some additional curiosities about it, such as why some may consider it to be racist. The second features other curiosities about lesser-known subjects related to Disney.

✓ (Jeffrey A.) Kottler, *Bad Therapy: Master Therapists Share Their Worst Failures*

This book is noteworthy for the fact it presents therapists as human beings, instead of flawless gods. The authors interviewed multiple professionals by asking them similar questions around the subject of "bad therapy", and so this work presents many stories related to the subject; they're usually brief, but still

important and thought-provoking.

- ✓ (Mikel J.) Koven, *Film, Folklore, and Urban Legends*

On the intersection of the three areas mentioned in the title. However, since this is a work composed by multiple articles on different subjects, it deserves to be noted that some of them appear to be way more interesting than others.

- ✓ (Richard von) Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis* \*

Published near the end of the XIX century, this is apparently one of the first books about sexual pathologies. What makes it relevant here, though, is the fact that apart from discussing those diseases, the author also provides a very high number of real-life examples of each one, alike of small stories, and a few will probably make you laugh – I can openly admit I did!

- ✓ (Jon) Krakauer, *Into the Wild*

Narrating the (seemingly true) story of Chris McCandless, who lived in the wild in Alaska. The book

isn't always easy to follow, as the plot is not presented in a straightforward way, but it does contain some interesting elements in it.

✓ (Heinrich) Kramer, *Malleus Maleficarum* \*

A medieval work on the theoretic aspects of dark magic, followed by a description of the powers of witches and how to deal with them in an Inquisitorial Court. Particularly interesting is the fact it preserves the way supposed witches were seen back in those days, and what cultural traditions (some of them still from the Antiquity), were best represented in them.

✓ (Franklin Brunell) Krauss, *An interpretation of the omens, portents, and prodigies recorded by Livy, Tacitus, and Suetonius*

A study on the different categories of prodigies mentioned by the aforementioned authors. Although Krauss provides this information on a very succinct way, his personal interpretations are often very dubious and far from what one would expected in a work titled like this.

✓ (Hendrik) Kraay, *The 'Barbarous Game': Entrudo*

*and Its Critics in Rio de Janeiro, 1810-1850s*

What makes this article noteworthy is the fact it presents how the "entrudo" used to be celebrated in Brazil in the first half of the XIX century.

- ✓ (Samuel Noah) Kramer, *History Begins at Sumer: Thirty Nine Firsts in Recorded History* \*

I can openly admit this is quite a unique book, and each of its editions – I read the third one – appears to add a few new chapters over the previous one.

Basically, its author lists 39 things we now know that already existed in the times of Ancient Sumer, and presents his evidence by translating into English the respective pieces of evidence to support his statements. He even includes little stories about how he came across each text he translates, which further adds to the appeal of the work itself!

- ✓ (Peter) Krassa, *Father Ernetti's Chronovisor: the creation and disappearance of the world's first time machine*

A history of the supposed time machine mentioned in its title, intertwined with that of its alleged creator. The work has a few interesting chapters (namely the final

one, with a supposed letter dictated by the priest to an intimate family member), but most serve merely as cultural context and are far from interesting. The book does provide, however, a good overview of what is known about the device.

✓ (Stephen) Krensky, *Paul Bunyan*

An adaptation of the "Paul Bunyan" legends for children, with each page featuring beautiful drawings and large text. Overall, it seems to capture the spirit of the original stories.

✓ (Roberta L.) Krueger, *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Romance*

A collection of 16 essays related to the subject of medieval romances, particularly the ones produced in France, but with two chapters regarding Germany and Italy, and an additional one focused on its lasting impact in Spain. This book features a bit of information on many romances produced during the Middle Ages, but, with a few exceptions, it never directly presents them; however, near the end it does contain a listing of the currently-available editions of those same romances.

- ✓ (Michael Alan) Kuhn, *The Secret to the Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*

I came across this book by pure accident, while searching for one with a very similar title, and I can openly admit it is, hands down, one of the worst books I have ever read. It is badly written, filled with lots of typos, contains information that leads nowhere, and its main stage is even composed by a fantasy, a supposed "vision", by the author. This book is a complete and utter waste of time.

- (Eric) Kurlander, *Hitler's Monsters: A Supernatural History of the Third Reich* \*

- ✓ Kurzweil, *Kabbalah for Dummies*

If you have ever wanted to learn more about the Kabbalah but you just don't have all the time and knowledge in the world available to you, this may be the book you're looking for.

- ✓ (Jüri) Kuuskemaa, *Legends and Tales of Old Tallinn*

This book is beautifully adorned with hundreds of



photos, along with some drawings, from the city of Tallinn. And that is certainly enjoyable, but it is hardly ever clear how each of them connect with the text surrounding it; more than once, I felt really confused trying to look for what the text speaks of in the images nearby. Also, despite its name, the work actually talks about just a very small number of legends from Tallinn, which wouldn't be so weird if in the final, one-page, conclusion the author did not make very explicit allusions to other legends he was aware of, but for some reason chose not to report in the work.

✓ (Monk) Kyokai, *Record of Miraculous Events in Japan: The Nihon Ryoki*

Apparently compiled around the beginning of the IX century of our era, this work preserves succinct reports of Buddhist miracles, which can essentially be read as short stories.



## 13- Section L

### ✓ (Decimus) Laberius, Fragments

The fragments of this author are essentially small phrases from his mimes, apparently preserved due to his usage of some very specific and unusual words.

### ✓ Lactantius, *Divine Institutions*

This is yet another of those works which in a first moment attacks the so-called pagan religions (even quoting many lost works), while in the second promotes the new religion.

In more recent centuries the Latin of this author was highly praised, with some authorities going as far as calling him the “Christian Cicero”, and so this work may be read due to its beautiful Latin language, too.

### ✓ Lactantius, *Epitome of the Divine Institutions*

As I showed in one of my own research papers, despite its name this work is not simply an epitome of the original. Instead, both works seem to feature different target groups, with this one focusing more on a Christian audience.

- ✓ Lactantius, *Of the Manner in Which the Persecutors Died*

Describing the ways in which those who persecuted the Church ended up dying, but more well-known for also preserving another version of the conversion of Constantine in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge.

- ✓ (Mário F.) Lages, *Cobras e Lagartos na Penha de França e Noutros Santuários Marianos*

A research paper on the “Lagarto da Penha de França” (a legend from the city of Lisbon, Portugal), along with the snake which can be seen in the same location. The author briefly mentions some literary sources about the whole story.

- ✓ (Oliver) Laine, *Norse Mythology: The Heroes, Gods, Sagas, Beliefs, and Rituals of Nordic Mythology* \*

Supposedly this should be a (very) introductory book to Norse Mythology, but in reality it is completely filled with false, incomplete and plainly incorrect information. I definitely do not recommend it to anyone in any way.

- ✓ (Mary) Lamb, *Tales from Shakespeare* \*

This book briefly recounts the stories contained in Shakespeare's plays. However, it should be noted that these retellings omit many elements of the originals, e.g. some of my favourite moments from *Midsummer Night's Dream* don't even appear here.

- ✓ (Rodolfo) Lanciani, *The Destruction of Ancient Rome: A Sketch of the History of the Monuments*

A wonderful book which presents a brief history of the monuments in the city of Rome, and how they became destroyed across time, until the author's own age, in the XIX century. Although this history is far from a complete retelling, it does provide a general view of what happened. Some of the late chapters are quite sad, in that they show the absurdity of how very significant monuments were lost to us for completely fickle reasons.

- ✓ (Rodolfo) Lanciani, *Pagan and Christian Rome*  
Essentially, this work presents some architectonic and archaeological parallelisms between Pagan Rome and

Christian one, with, for example, a chapter presenting how the Roman cemeteries were, and how this contrasted with the art in those of the Christians. Since the author apparently participated directly in the discovery of many monuments in Rome at the time, he appears to write on personal experience for everything that he reports in this book.

✓ (Rick) Landers, *The Impossible Road Trip*  
A book about some random but impressive roadside attractions from the US, some of which do not even exist any more. The author briefly tells the background stories behind them, and also included many photographs along with his information.

✓ (Candido) Landolt, *Subsidios para o estudo do Folk-lore Infantil Portuguez*  
A brief work in which some old popular traditions of Portugal related to children are retold. There's no critical element here, they're just succinctly presented and that's all.

✓ (Candido) Landolt, *Tradições Populares Colhidas no Concelho de Barcellos*

A very small book with a bit of a misleading title, since it just contains some short popular verses collected at the end of the XIX century in the city of Barcelos, in the north of Portugal.

✓ (Andrew) Lang, *Books and Bookmen* \*

Apparently on random subjects related to books and their authors. Some chapters are way more interesting than others, such as the very first one, on literary forgeries.

✓ (Andrew) Lang, *Historical Mysteries* \*

A brief presentation of some mysteries collected by the author, the most famous of which, today, is possibly the case of Kaspar Hauser. He presents the cases with some extended details, but naturally does not solve any of them.

✓ (Berel) Lang, *The Jewish 'Declaration of War' against the Nazis*

An article about a jewish book which may, or may not, have been responsible for Hitler's "Final Solution". The author presents some more background information on the publishing of the book, what happened to it, and

how much it influenced the Second World War.

✓ Laozi, *Tao Te Ching*

From VI century China, this famous text contains 81 brief sections of philosophical thoughts, seemingly not organized in any specific order. Even from a western standpoint it provides significant room for thought and personal exploration.

✓ (Pat) Laprade, *The Eight Wonder of the World - The True Story of André the Giant*

This book's presence in here would seem strange, if it wasn't for the fact that several times across the work it tries to remove the blur between fact and fiction, presenting both fact and legend in the exact same figure of a man. Such intersection allows the reader to consider how legends are born out of real facts.

✓ (Pat) Laprade, *Sisterhood of the Squared Circle - The History and Rise of Women's Wrestling*

A seemingly complete history of women's wrestling, from its early stages to our own day and age. What makes it interesting enough to be mentioned here is the fact it also individually retells the stories behind its



many intervenors, as if they were legends of gods and demigods brought to the world.

✓ Larry Bundy Jr, *Fact Hunt*

A book of random facts about video-games, with some categories being significantly more interesting than others.

✓ (I. M.) Lask, *Mimekor Yisrael: Selected Classical Jewish Folktales* \*

A collection of 113 tales from several different periods of Jewish history. For me, the most interesting one was certainly the story of Joseph Della Reina.

✓ (Maria Elise T. T.) Lauder, *Legends and Tales of the Harz Mountains, North Germany* \*

From the end of the XIX century, this book compiles some random legends from the area mentioned in the title. Little explanation is offered for any of them.

✓ (W. B.) Laughead, *The Marvelous Exploits of Paul Bunyan*

Seemingly the earliest work detailing the legends of Paul Bunyan. It should be taken with a very significant

grain of salt, as they may not fairly represent the original oral stories – the work itself states the tales contained there were “embellished for publication”.

- ✓ (Bill) Lauritzen, *The Invention of God: The Natural Origins of Mythology and Religion* \*

This far-from-great book seems to introduce the idea that the idea of deities came from volcanoes. It could be true, but the author uses out-of-context quotes, seems to present more details about his travels than on the subject itself, and goes as far as presenting claims he saw in television documentaries as notable evidence. I read the initial chapters and quickly got tired of it.

- ✓ (John Cuthbert) Lawson, *Modern Greek Folklore and Ancient Greek Religion: A Study in Survivals*\*

Quite an interesting book, which preserves for us the way in which some Ancient Greek beliefs were still held in Greece at the beginning of the XX century. When it comes to Mythology, the second chapter is particularly interesting, since it presents how some figures were retained and recontextualized across the centuries.

The remaining chapters are not, in my personal opinion, as interesting.

- ✓ (Delfim) Leão, *Ausónio, Espetáculo dos Sete Sábios*, vv. 1-72

A succinct introduction to Ausonius' *Septem Sapientium Sententiae*, along with a translation of the work to Portuguese.

- (Delfim) Leão, *O sexo e a cidade: um caso de prostituição masculina (Ésquines, Contra Timarco)*
- ✓ (Delfim) Leão, *Trimalquião À Luz dos Caracteres de Teofrasto*

An article showing how *Satyricon's* Trimalchio may have been built taking into account some aspects of Greek scholarship, including Theophrastus' *Characters*.

- ✓ (Duarte Nunes de) Leão, *Descrição do Reino de Portugal* \*

From the beginning of the XVII century, this work describes the geography of the kingdom of Portugal of that time, but strangely focuses too much in some

areas and too little in others. For example, there's a whole section just for the mountains of Sintra, but most other mountains do not deserve such an honour; and it also contains a very large number of chapters about saints and holy figures who were either born, died, or have their bodies present in Portugal, which is likely the most interesting part of the work, from a mythological and legendary standpoint.

- ✓ (Emory B.) Lease, *The Number Three, Mysterious, Mystic, Magic*

This research paper contains several examples of the symbolism of number three in Classical Literature. However, when it comes down to explaining its actual meaning, the author falls short of effectively doing so.

- ✓ (Ethel Brigham) Leatherbee, *The Christian Mythology*

A work showing some resemblances between early Christianity and several pagan ideas.

- (Claude) Lecouteux, *The Secret History of Poltergeists and Haunted Houses: From Pagan Folklore to Modern Manifestations* \*

- ✓ (David) Leeming, *Jealous Gods and Chosen People: The Mythology of the Middle East*

On the gods and goddesses of the Middle East, starting with the oldest ones from Mesopotamia, all the way through to the Jewish, Christian and Islamic ones. It is definitely an interesting read, since it introduces the whole subject with the historical context and follows through with brief presentations of each system of myths, their main gods and stories.

- ✓ (Charles R.) Lefcourt, *Did Guilleragues Write 'The Portuguese Letters'?*

A brief article on the authorship of the work titled *The Portuguese Letters*, essentially presenting the evidence for and against a specific (potential) author.

- ✓ (Antonio Attico de Souza) Leite, *Memoria Sobre o Reino Encantado na Comarca de Villa Bella*

The second edition of a work originally named *Memória Sobre a Pedra Bonita ou Reino Encantado*, seemingly this new version adds some extra chapters and an engraving representing multiple episodes of the whole story... The story of some very unusual events which

took place in this area of Brazil between the years of 1836 and 1838, and which are subtly related to the myth of "Sebastianismo" from Portugal. Overall, this work recaps the whole story, in brief words and with some testimonials from people who actually went through the events at hand.

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *A Dor de Camões*  
A short poem referencing Camões by an author who became famous for many other reasons (see below).

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Anuario para o Estudo das Tradições Populares Portuguesas* \*  
A single-number magazine, it contains many topics of ethnological interest. When it comes to legends, at the very least it seems to preserve three small ones from the south of Portugal which are super intriguing but that we seem to now know absolutely nothing else about.

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Contos Populares e Lendas* \*

This is a huge, two-volume, compilation of all kinds of traditional oral stories from Portugal. It contains

hundreds and hundreds of tales ordered by their main theme, with themes such as animal stories, those related to the saints, ones about the origins of specific towns, et al. Overall, for those seeking traditional portuguese stories this is quite an interesting work, but, in my view, it also has a significant issue – the author and the subsequent coordinators don't always make their sources clear, and so the work occasionally refers to sources which are hard, if not completely impossible, to track down; in some cases, I found myself fascinated by some piece of information, only to be informed it came from an undisclosed "pamphlet published in 1888", which is far from helpful. However, if you're just interested in the traditional stories themselves, this is undoubtedly a good work for you.

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Dicionário da Chorographia de Portugal* \*

This work contains extremely basic information on all the cities, villages and parishes in Portugal, usually just pointing out how many families lived in each of them and what was the closest major city around the year of 1884. In rare cases it does present some more information about them.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume I - Filologia (Parte I)* \*

A collection of articles by the author related to the subject of Philology, with some brief references to myths and legends here and there.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume II - Dialectologia (Parte I)* \*

Compilation of articles of the author on Dialectology, with their most significant element being, in the context here at hand, the presence of regional stories which illustrate some aspects of local languages.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume III - Onomatologia* \*

This volume is on the origin of names in Portugal, and it does have, here and there, some very brief references to legendary materials, but nothing too significative.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, "Opusculos - Volume IV - Filologia (Parte II)" \*

A second volume on the subject of Philology, but this



one just has a very small number of quoted stories on their original dialect.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume V - Etnologia (Parte I)* \*

This volume contains information of an ethnological nature related to Portugal, from the history of times of yore up to references to old local deities and even some mythological creatures.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume VI - Dialectologia (Parte II)* \*

A second volume of compilation of articles of the author on Dialectology, with nothing specially relevant in it. However, it can be noted that this volume also contains unedited information compiled by the author.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Opusculos - Volume VII - Etnologia (Parte II)* \*

This volume, unlike the previous ones, contains a lot more content related to myths, legends and traditions from Portugal. The author never writes about any of them as extensively as one would desire, but it should

be reminded that what these volumes compile are indeed short article about a wide variety of subjects.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Poesia Amorosa do Povo Português*

Divided into two essential sequences, the first one of this book introduces the topic at hand and its main elements, while the second presents traditional love quatrains compiled in Portugal.

- ✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Religiões da Lusitânia*

I don't think this work is available in English, but it is undoubtedly among the most interesting and well-researched books I had the chance of reading.

Essentially, the author goes across different periods of the pre-history and history of Lusitania, provides some historial context, and then talks about the religions from each period based on the extant literary and archaeological evidence. The end result is an amazing piece of scholarship, which will certainly please those who want to learn more about the many religions of Lusitania until the rise of Christianity – and the author even adds a small appendix on how those older

religions ended up influencing some aspects of local Christianity and culture in general.

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Revista Lusitana* \*  
Through their many years of publication 38 volumes were seemingly produced for this magazine. They contain many topics of general interest for the culture of Portugal, including some occasional references to myths and legends from the same country. They are indeed very occasional and far between, they do not always have a specific title shared in all of them, and so it is hard to find them all unless you do what I did and at least scroll across all the volumes one by one.

✓ (José) Leite de Vasconcelos, *Tradições Populares de Portugal* \*

I assume this one is also unavailable in English, but it is an unusual book on popular traditions from Portugal. It seldom treats the subject in a systematic way. The final chapter focuses on “supernatural beings”, and as such it talks about a few legendary creatures from Portuguese folklore.

✓ (Charles Godfrey) Leland, *Aradia, or the Gospel*

*of the Witches*

A (supposed?) edited version of some rituals and myths associated to one "Aradia", best known in the Middle Ages as Herodias. Particularly interesting is the fact that some of the tales (like Laverna's), if actually true, may still come down from the Antiquity. However, the information presented here must be taken with a significant grain of salt, since it was supposedly obtained mystically.

✓ (Charles Godfrey) Leland, *Gypsy Sorcery And Fortune Telling*

Although not a very "scholarly" work (the author even goes as far as telling us about his own dreams), it does feature interesting information on the beliefs of XIX century gypsies. At the same time, some intriguing points are alluded to but never fully explained (e.g. why do they fear toads?), which ends up being slightly disappointing.

✓ (Charles Godfrey) Leland, *The Unpublished Legends of Virgil*

Presenting several legends regarding Virgil, the author of the *Aeneid*. They all appear to be (very?) late

compositions, and he is never presented as a poet, but always as a magician or a wise man. It is possible this view of his personal knowledge may have been a cause, or a consequence, of his presence in Dante's *Commedia*.

- ✓ (Jeff) Lenburg, *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons, Third Edition* \*

I came across this book while searching for an index of cartoon shows and their respective plots. It not only fulfilled what I was looking for, enabling me to find many shows related to local myths and legends, but also contains information on a huge number of classical cartoons, animated movies, television specials and shows, etc. It really seems to have way, way more information than I expected.

- ✓ (Charlotte) Lennox, *The Female Quixote; or The Adventures of Arabella* \*

In Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, the hero seemingly becomes crazy after having read too many chivalry romances. Taking advantage of a similar idea, this story's Arabella starts acting in very strange ways once she has populated her imagination with romantic

stories directed towards females. Although the idea is interesting, ultimately I felt the story is both too long and too slow. Some audiences may enjoy it like this, but it wasn't my case.

✓ (Alain-René) Lesage, *Gil Blas* \*

A picaresque novel from the early XVIII century, which presents all the usual elements of the genre. I felt it was hardly noteworthy, with the exception of the fact the hero comes from the beautiful town of Santillana del Mar.

✓ (David) Lester, *Exit Weeping: Understanding Suicide Through the Study of Famous Suicides*

This is a work about some suicides of the past, along with small notes of what we can learn from them. The final chapter, with a conclusion obtained from all, is not very good.

✓ (David) Lester, *Katie's Diary: Unlocking the Mystery of a Suicide* \*

Quite an unorthodox book, but also one which over-promises and under-delivers. It seems that one "Katie" wrote five journals prior to her suicide; in here, the

author presents just one of them, the final one, and basically sums up the remaining content, further complemented by comments from other specialists in the area of Psychology. Although this whole thing may be interesting for people who study the subject at hand, I think that presenting all the books to the reader would have made it possible for readers to spot other potential warning signs in Katie's behaviour.

- (Michael) Levy, *Children's Fantasy Literature: An Introduction*
- ✓ (C.S.) Lewis, *The Allegory of Love: A Study in Medieval Tradition* \*

This book starts with some background information on allegorical works produced in the Antiquity. Then, it proceeds up to medieval tradition itself, with the author presenting some noteworthy works regarding the different depictions on love in the Middle Ages, from the famous *Roman de la Rose* up to Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, among others.

- ✓ (C.S.) Lewis, *The Discarded Image*

As its subtitle best describes, this is "an introduction to

Medieval and Renaissance Literature". Although it doesn't focus on many of the things you'd expect it to, you can truly learn a lot of intriguing and interesting things from it.

✓ (C.S.) Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

A book on the problem of evil, written from the point of a christian author.

✓ (Jacquie E.) Lewis, *Working with Dreams and PTSD Nightmares: 14 Approaches for Psychotherapists and Counsellors*

In spite of its title, this book presents fourteen different approaches that Psychology uses when dealing with dreams. Each chapter comes from a different specialist, and some of them do present information related to PTSD, but this the majority of them do not. However, the book does present the report of multiple dreams, and some suggestions on how to deal with them.

✓ (James R.) Lewis, *UFOs and Popular Culture: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Myth* \*

Basically an encyclopedia with content related to UFO



(fictional) movies and people who claim to have been visited, or seen, aliens from outer space. All the most famous cases seem to be presented here, along with some limited bibliography on each of them.

- ✓ (Theodore J.) Lewis, *The Origin and Character of God: Ancient Israelite Religion through the Lens of Divinity* \*

A super detailed work on the origin and “evolution” of the concept of God in Israel and its previous religions. Although one can definitely consider this work a treasure-trove of information, it is also a very scholarly one, citing hundreds of secondary sources to the point that a casual reader will soon break under the weight of so much knowledge. As such, this is a great work for scholars, but casual readers, ones looking for a more specific piece of information on the same subject, may not find this very enjoyable.

- Libanius, *Monody on the temple of Apollo at Daphne*

- ✓ Libanius, *For the Temples* (oration 30)  
Against (Christian) monks who had destroyed some

temples, and in which the author asks the Emperor for help in situations such as those, which were becoming more and more common near the end of the IV century AD.

- ✓ (Hallie) Lieberman, *Buzz: A Stimulating History of the Sex Toy*

In concept, this could have been an interesting work, but the author focuses essentially just in the North American market. In fact, she seems to tell the story of the sex toy market in the US, instead of the one of sex toys themselves, which ends up being a bit misleading. At least the end chapters of the book have some noteworthy images related to the whole subject at hand.

- ✓ (A.) Lima, *Ardinia – Romance Histórico*

Likely super rare – I could only access it through a different book, which quoted this poem in full – this work presents a local legend from Granja do Tedo, in the north of Portugal, which still seems to be known today.

- ✓ (Luis de Torres de) Lima, *Compendio das mais*

*notaveis cousas que no Reyno de Portugal  
acontecerão desde a perda del Rey D. Sebastião  
até o anno de 1627* \*

An historical work seemingly contemporary to the events portrayed in it, ranging from the Battle of Alcacer Quibir (1578) to the author's own time in 1627. The book itself begins with many philosophical sections, and then reports on the aforementioned historical subjects. From a mythological standpoint, perhaps the most noteworthy section is a chapter on the two men who pretended to be King Sebastian returned to Portugal.

- ✓ (Carl) Lindahl, *Medieval Folklore: A Guide to Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs* \*

An encyclopedia of Middle Age lore, with basic to medium amounts of information on each of the topics at hand. Is it good, or is it bad? One can sum it up like this – if you find any really interesting information in it, and then you want to learn more about the subject, it seems to provide no significant bibliography for each of the articles.

- (Astrid) Lindgren, *Pippi Goes on Board*
- (Astrid) Lindgren, *Pippi in the South Seas*
- (Astrid) Lindgren, *Pippi Longstocking*
- (John) Lindow, *Norse Mythology, a Guide to the Gods, Heroes, Rituals and Beliefs* \*
- Linnaeus, *Philosophia Botanica* \*
- (Laura van Dernoot) Lipsky, *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*

✓ (Kate) Lister, *A Curious History of Sex*

This book presents multiple histories related to sex and sexuality, from the usage of some naughty words up to the birth and evolution of some ideas. It is definitely an interesting work, which focuses in one individual topic at a time, and so is not as tiring as its scholarly treatment could imply. Plus, it is filled with photos from the past, although some of them may be a bit shocking to today's audiences. Oh, and it's clearly for adults.

✓ (Florence Randal) Livesay, *Songs of Ukraina, with Ruthenian Poems [Translated]* \*

Published in the beginning of the XX century, this work

presents translations to English of traditional songs from Ukraine. They do not have complete introductions, but at least the author provides some occasional notes for significant elements of some of the songs she picked for her work.

✓ Livius Andronicus, Fragments

He appears to have composed many tragedies on mythological themes, and these fragments allow us to at least gain a very basic access to their titles and potential themes. However, his most interesting fragments are certainly the ones which come from his translation of Homer's *Odyssey*, titled the *Odusia*, in which it is possible, in some instances, to see how he changed some elements of the original to fit his own Latin audience and context.

✓ (James G.) Lochtefeld, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Hinduism* \*

A work with a lot of information about Hinduism, with particular interest for its fairly prolonged resumes of some myths and legends, along with many beautiful images. Strangely enough, the author does not provide his sources for all the entries, but in some rare cases

an article may end with a recommended source for further information on a specific topic.

- ✓ (Pragya) Lodha, *Sleep Paralysis: A Brief Clinical Review*

Dating from 2019, an evidently brief recap of everything we know about sleep paralysis, and the main studies related to it.

- ✓ (Bernard) London, *Ending the Depression Through Planned Obsolescence*

Perhaps only notable as the main origin of the “Planned Obsolescence” name, but the idea in itself precedes it.

- ✓ Longinus, *On the sublime*

If, apart from the previously-mentioned works on literary criticism by Aristotle and Horace, a third one had to be recommended on a similar subject, it’d possibly be this one, which approaches the same subject, along with the topic of aesthetics.

- ✓ Longus, *Daphnis and Chloe*

An Ancient Greek novel, with all the usual elements of

the genre.

✓ (Elias) Lönnrot, *Kalevala*

Compiled in the XIX century but with poems certainly composed centuries before, this finnish national epic is an interesting tale of gods and heroes, magic and songs, historicity and legends. Its 50 self-contained poems can essentially be read individually, but become a lot more enjoyable if read in context, as each surprising new sequence is as often hard to predict as it is intriguing to readers.

✓ Lope de Vega, *La Gatomaquia* \*

Essentially a satire of the Trojan War, in which two cats dispute a beautiful female of their species.

✓ (Fernão) Lopes, *Chronica de El-Rei D. Pedro I*

This work narrates the story of the Portuguese king Pedro I in a succinct way, but the author also devotes significant time and space to the wars taking place in Spain at the same time, i.e. mid XIV century.

✓ (Maria Antónia) Lopes, *Mulheres Condenadas à Morte em Portugal: de 1693 à abolição da pena*

*última*

A research paper on the final women condemned to death and actually killed in Portugal. In some rare cases the author succinctly reports their stories.

- ✓ (Elisa Maria) Lopes de Costa, *Ditos e Reditos: Provérbios da Lusofonia*

A compilation of proverbs from Portuguese-speaking countries, even if they're not necessarily in this language. For that reason, the author presents a translation and transcription of the original, followed by similar proverbs from Portugal. Curiously, when it comes down to the ones from China and Macau, the author says very little about them, not even bothering explaining any of them. For me, the work would be a lot more interesting if she had explained the strangest of those proverbs to the reader (e.g. "'Mister Yie likes dragons?' Who is he?"), which she never does.

- ✓ Lopo de Sousa Coutinho, *Livro do Cerco de Diu*\*  
Reporting on the first siege of the city of Diu, by one of the people who intervened in it. Apart from being an historical work, it also contains some legend-like references to local culture.



- ✓ (Albert B.) Lord, *The Singer of Tales*

On the oral composition of epic poems such as those ascribed to Homer. It is a very informative work, but also a bit sad if you take into account that Lord's co-author, Milman Parry, died at a young age.

- ✓ (Alexandra Louise) Lowe, *Let's talk about sex: a study into the sexual nature of the goddess Inanna*

This master thesis essentially talks about whether Inanna should accurately be seen as a goddess of love or of sexuality.

- ✓ Lucan, *Pharsalia* [or *Civil War*]

An epic poem on Rome's Civil War; although it isn't as mythologically inclined as some of its predecessors, it is an uncommon rendition of a serious subject, and it does contain some intriguing mystical sequences, such as the one of the witch Erichtho.

- ✓ (Maria Clara de Almeida) Lucas, *Hagiografia Medieval Portuguesa*

Some brief considerations on medieval hagiography

from Portugal, more of a literary and philosophical nature than of a theological one. Overall, the book is not a very good introduction to the subject, since it focuses on many secondary aspects of those lives, but near the end it does sum-up, and present some extracts, coming from the lives of those saints.

- ✓ (Georg) Luck, *Arcana Mundi: Magic and the Occult in the Greek and Roman Worlds: A Collection of Ancient Texts* \*

Containing multiple references from areas such as magic, miracles, daemonology [sic.], divination, astrology and alchemy, this book presents many different textual sources, some of which may be completely unknown to a casual reader. If there are already many other books with similar content, what makes this specific one so interesting is the fact that each source, and quotation, are introduced with all the information a casual reader may want about the subjects and sources at hand. If you're interested in these subjects, Luck's indeed a very interesting work, which may even provide you multiple vectors for additional research.

✓ (Sister) Lúcia, *Memórias da Irmã Lúcia* \*

By one of the seers of Fátima, this first-person report tells us about the two other seers and all the personal and miraculous events they went through. It is quite important since the other notable seer of that (approximate) time, the one of Lourdes (in France), apparently hasn't written anything of her own.

✓ (Pseudo-)Lucian<sup>19</sup>, *Lucius, or the ass*

This work's authorship is a dubious one, but it should suffice to say that many attribute it to Lucian. It preserves a story very similar to the one from Apuleius' *Golden Ass*, but with a different ending and some significant changes. In fact, despite their resemblances, they may even be considered different works, and deserve to be read separately, if possible

---

19 Lucian of Samosata has many, many, MANY works which can be considered as interesting in the context of Mythology. However, for the sake of space, and also to invite others to read them themselves (trust me, they're a lot of fun!), in the next few pages I will only describe those which seem particularly significant to me.

one after the other, so you can best notice what's similar, and how many are the differences, between these two.

- (Pseudo-)Lucian, *Philopatris*

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Lucian, *Timarion*

Authored in the Byzantine Empire but nonetheless attributed to Lucian of Samosata, it presents the story of a man who died by accident and who is then taken to the realm of Hades. Eventually convincing people there that he was actually alive, he is then allowed to go back home, where he tells a friend everything he saw in the afterlife.

- Lucian, *A Conversation with Hesiod*
- Lucian, *A Professor of Public Speaking*

- ✓ Lucian, *Alexander the False Prophet*

About Alexander of Abonoteichus and the "god" Glycon, a false prophet and the supposed divine figure he served, which was actually – and I wish I was kidding, as the saying goes – a puppet. Lucian deeply criticizes him, which allows us to get more information

on this unusual sect that we'd typically have.

- Lucian, *Anacharsis or Athletics*
- Lucian, *Apology for the Dependent Scholar*
- Lucian, *A Slip of the Tongue in Greeting*

✓ Lucian, *Charon*

A dialogue between Charon and Hermes.

✓ Lucian, *Cronosolon*

A set of supposed rules for a festival of Cronus.

- Lucian, *Demonax*
- Lucian, *Demosthenes* \*
- Lucian, *Dialogues of the Courtesans*

✓ Lucian, *Dialogues of the Dead*

A series of short dialogues between mythological figures, taking place in the underworld.

✓ Lucian, *Dialogues of the Gods*

A similar set of dialogues, but these ones portraying gods instead.

✓ Lucian, *Dialogues of the Sea-Gods*

A third set of dialogues, this one about gods more directly associated with the sea.

✓ Lucian, *Dionysus, an introductory lecture*

About this particular god and his travels to India.

- Lucian, *Dipsas, the thirst-snake*
- Lucian, *Double Indictment*
- Lucian, *Essays in Portraiture*
- Lucian, *Essays in Portraiture Defended*
- Lucian, *Harmonides*

✓ Lucian, *Heracles, an introductory lecture*

On a god called Ogmios, which the author identifies as “our Heracles”.

- Lucian, *Hermotimus or Concerning the Sects*

✓ Lucian, *Herodotus or Aetion*

Describing how these two, one a famous author and the other a painter, both publicised their works at the Olympic Games.

- Lucian, *How to Write History*

- ✓ Lucian, *Icaromenippus*

The story of a man who made himself some wings similar to Icarus' own and flew up to the sky, eventually meeting the gods themselves.

- Lucian, *Lexiphanes*

- ✓ Lucian, *Menippus or The Descent Into Hades*

A man descends into the place of the dead looking for some answers. I always wondered if he is the same man who in one of the previous stories flew up in the sky.

- Lucian, *My Native Land (An Encomium of Fatherland)*

- Lucian, *Nigrinus*

- Lucian, *Of Pantomime*

- ✓ Lucian, *The Cock*

Possibly one of the most interesting of Lucian's tales, at least in my personal opinion. It presents a magical rooster who is actually Pythagoras reincarnated; when

a cobbler who wishes to be rich meets him, the animal makes him invisible and, together, they visit some houses of the rich during the night, in order to show him that a poor and honest life is much better than a rich one.

- Lucian, *On Funerals (On Mourning)*
- Lucian, *On Sacrifices*
- Lucian, *The Parasite: Parasitic an Art*
- Lucian, *Phalaris I and II*

✓ Lucian, *Philosophies for Sale (Sale of Creeds)*

An unusual story in which Zeus puts several philosophers for sale in the marketplace.

✓ Lucian, *Prometheus*

Here, Prometheus defends the actions he performed when he created mankind, stole meat from Zeus and robbed the fire for the profit of men.

✓ Lucian, *Saturnalia*

Describing the famous festival.

✓ Lucian, *Saturnalian Letters*



A letter written to Saturn in the context of his famous festival.

- Lucian, *Slander*

- ✓ Lucian, *Swans and Amber*

The author visits a place famous from the myths, only to end up noticing that things he should be finding in the area aren't there at all.

- Lucian, *The Symposium or The Lapiths* \*

- ✓ Lucian, *The Council of the Gods*

This story presents Momus, a famous criticising figure, complaining that maybe there are already too many gods in the Olympus.

- Lucian, *The Cynic*

- ✓ Lucian, *The Death of Peregrinus*

About a Christian who had recently died. Although it is a mostly harmless text, in more recent centuries it was banned by the Inquisition.

- Lucian, *The Dependent Scholar*
- Lucian, *The Disinherited*

✓ Lucian, *The Fly*

An encomium on a fly, which I can randomly mention that John Tzetzes praised in his *Chiliades*.

- Lucian, *The Hall*

✓ Lucian, *The Ignorant Book-Collector*

A work in which Lucian points out a very interesting idea – to collect books is absolutely worthless unless people truly read them and understand the messages they transmit us. That's a lesson which I hoped many people had long understood in their own lives...

✓ Lucian, *The Lover of Lies*

A collection of fictional stories, among which you can find one very alike of the famous "Sorceress' Apprentice".

- Lucian, *The Mistaken Critic*
- Lucian, *The Runaways*
- Lucian, *The Scythian*

- Lucian, *The Ship or The Wishes*

- ✓ Lucian, *The Syrian Goddess*

Essentially a description of the cult of a Syrian goddess.

- Lucian, *The Tyrannicide*

- ✓ Lucian, *The True History*

In my opinion this is Lucian's best work, and perhaps among the best fictional works of all Ancient Literature. In it, the author reports a voyage he supposedly went through, but he fills it with absolutely incredible and unbelievable details, such as islands made of cheese, boat-swallowing creatures, kingdoms in the Moon and the Sun involved in an eternal war, and many other extremely unexpected events.

One could easily argue this is actually a satire of some writers of historical and geographical accounts, who, like Herodotus or Antonius Diogenes, filled their works with false information. However, Lucian's own account is much more than that, it is an absolute masterpiece of fiction, which many more readers should definitely explore from beginning to end.

- Lucian, *The Vision*
- Lucian, *Timon or the Misanthrope*
- Lucian, *Toxaris, or Friendship*
- Lucian, *Tragic Zeus*, i.e. *Jupiter Tragoedus*
- Lucian, *Trial in the court of the vowels*

✓ Lucian, *Voyage to the Lower World*

Representing a group of people who just recently arrived in the underworld, and how they accept their own fates.

- Lucian, *You're a Prometheus*

✓ Lucian, *Zeus Cross-Examined*

On how the idea of divine omnipotence is incompatible with the one of fate.

- Lucian, *Zeuxis or Antiochus*

✓ Lucretius, *De rerum natura*

A long didactic poem on Epicurean ideas. It is certainly not a particularly enjoyable composition, but most of all one people can read to learn more about the

philosophical sect once created by Epicurus.

✓ (Frei) Luis dos Anjos, *Jardim de Portugal* \*

Published in the first half of the XVII century, this work presents 195 women who had some kind of significant role in Christianity from Portugal. The stories of some take multiple pages, others are a single paragraph in length, while a few even refer to anonymous reports of some importance. Overall, it is an interesting work if you're interested in early female religious figures from this country, although it should necessarily be noted the listing presented by the author is not a complete one.

✓ (Joseph) Lumpkin, *The Books of Enoch* \*

A translation of the three books associated with Enoch, with plenty of commentary. However, perhaps the most noteworthy element of this edition is the fact the author tries, in one of the last chapters, to reconstruct a continuous extra-biblical plot by gathering evidence from multiple books.

✓ (Christopher C.) Lund, *Anedotas Portuguesas e Memórias Biográficas da Corte Quinhentista:*

*Istorias e Ditos Galantes que Sucederão e se  
Disserão no Paço* \*

This quaint book edits and presents to the reader many small stories from XVI century Portugal, often connected with King Sebastian, its court, and other important figures from the time. In the edition at hand, the author also presents a few stories specifically connected with the poet Camões, which most Portuguese people likely never heard before.

- ✓ (Manfred) Lurker, *The Rutledge Dictionary of Gods and Goddesses, Devils and Demons*

Although this work features some basic information on deities that other similar books ignore, overall it is not a very good resource. Every deity is talked about very succinctly, too often with incomplete, misleading, or even plainly incorrect information. Also, the bibliography present at the end of the work does not state where each piece of information comes from, and so anyone wanting to learn more about a particular deity will quickly be thrown into the proverbial wild goose chase.

- ✓ (Philip) Lutgendorf, *Hanuman's Tale: The*

*Messages of a Divine Monkey* \*

A research work on many significant aspects of the presence of Hanuman in Indian culture, both in the past and today.

✓ (Martin) Luther, *On the Jews and Their Lies* \*

In this book Luther attacks the Jews not for their beliefs, but for being who they are, to the point he sometimes becomes impulsively rude. I felt this book was very little interesting, and did not even finish reading it, given the kind of arguments it uses.

✓ (Martin) Luther, *Table Talk* \*

A compilation of ideas of Luther, mostly regarding religious topics, that many others have collected across time. Likely interesting to understand the man's thought, but most readers of today will possibly dislike its randomness, as I did.

✓ (Martin) Luther, *Vom Schem Hamphoras*

Certainly more interesting the aforementioned, in this work Luther transcribes a copy of the *Toledoth Yeshu* – I have previously read a different one, and so there are certainly many different versions of it – and then

provides some commentary on it. Regrettably, his commentary is also more of the satirical nature than a truly informative one, and so, if you were not familiar with the original text and its nuances, you will likely not learn much more about it either.

✓      Lycophron, *Alexandra*

This is both an unusual and very problematic work, in the sense that it is extremely hard to read and understand unless your edition of the work features critical notes. It essentially presents a prophetic utterance by the trojan Cassandra, alluding to many mythological episodes related to the Trojan Cycle, but does so in a very obscure way. From a mythological standpoint, this approach to her utterances made a lot of sense – people weren't supposed to understand or believe what she was predicting – but from a literary one, it creates a work which can only be read by those impossibly well familiarized with those myths (or if you cheat by using *scholia*). So, if you ever want to test your knowledge of Greek Mythology, try to read and fully understand this work without any help external to its verses.



✓ (John) Lydus, *The Months*

Preserving extensive information on the days of the week, months, pagan festivals for the entire year, among other similar subjects.

## 14- Section M

✓ Macarius Magnes, *Apocriticus*

Only partially extant, this is a Christian apology essentially known for the fact it preserves the arguments opponents had, in their now-lost works, previously used against Christianity.

- (Dennis R.) MacDonald, *Two Shipwrecked Gospels: The Logoi of Jesus and Papias's Exposition of Logia about the Lord* \*

✓ (Fiona) MacDonald, *100 Things You Should Know About Myths & Legends* \*

This work simply presents 100 "facts" related to myths and legends, with a small title followed by a succinct description. They are completely random, in the sense that one entry may talk about a Greek myth, the next about one from India, and the one following them may reference "Beauty and the Beast". It is clearly a book for children, but I felt it was just too random to even be profitable or pleasing for them.

- ✓ (Norm) MacDonald, *Based on a True Story: A Memoir*

Although this could be just the author's memoir, it seems to be way more fiction than fact, and so readers are often left wondering what will be happening next. We all get to learn few reliable facts about the author, as one would expect in a similar book, but the content itself is definitely much more unique and fun than such a realistic book would ever offer.

- ✓ (Duarte Ribeiro de) Macedo, *Vida da Emperatriz Theodora*

Published in Portugal in the middle of the XVII century, this work briefly retells the main events of the life of Theophilus and Theodora, emperor and empress of the Byzantine Empire in the IX century. The topic is presented in a very simple way.

- ✓ (José Agostinho de) Macedo, *Censura das Lusíadas* \*

Undoubtedly written after *O Oriente* (see below), this other work presents the main plot holes and formal flaws of Camões' epic poem. If you're familiar with such epic, this read is certainly very thought-provoking,

since students are never told about these flaws in school, and more often than not even tend to overlook them all. The book does point out a ton of absurdities, but in some places the author also seems to be overly rude in his assessments.

✓ (José Agostinho de) Macedo, *O Oriente*

An epic poem from Portugal, published in the early XIX century, about the maritime exploration and conquests of Vasco da Gama. Although the same theme is, in a broad sense, also used for the *Lusiads*, it is here treated in a more realistic way, and with the addition of Christianity instead of deities from Paganism. It has, here and there, some interesting moments, such as when the ghost of Henry the Navigator appears to the hero. It deserves to be compared and contrasted with Camões' own epic.

✓ (José Agostinho de) Macedo, *Os Sebastianistas*

Seemingly written during the invasions of Portugal by the French, through four main chapters this work tries to show the absurdity of the Sebastianist belief which was apparently common in the country at the time.

- ✓ (J. M.) Macfie, *The Ramayan of Tulsidas, or the Bible of Northern India* \*

This work succinctly presents and sums up Tulsidas' own version of the *Ramayana*, and then features multiple chapters related to specific elements coming from it, particularly related to the gods.

- ✓ (James) MacGillivray, *The Round River Drive*  
A poem which is seemingly one of the earliest written sources for the legends of Paul Bunyan.

- ✓ (Carlos Alberto) Machado, *Cuidar dos Mortos*  
From the end of the XX century, this work talks about the traditional ways of dying in Portugal, and also contains significant information on traditions associated with it.

- ✓ (Julio Cesar) Machado, *Da Loucura e das Manias em Portugal: Estudos Humorísticos*

Published in 1871, this funny work preserves some examples of insanities and traditions which existed in Portugal at the time. Some of them are related to magic and popular stories, with the most significant likely being a chapter in which the author extensively

presents the beliefs related to Enchanted Mooresses.

✓ Machiavelli, *The Prince*

That Machiavelli's work was significant in the Renaissance few people would likely disagree with, but this isn't always a good thing. Although he here provides the picture of the ideal *princeps*, and further furnishes plenty of information on how to become one, that required him to argue in favour of many things which aren't usually considered as acceptable or good. For that reason, this book is famous not for providing any good examples, but for doing the opposite; in fact, it was even banned by the Inquisition!

✓ (Charles) Mackey, *Extraordinary Popular  
Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* \*

This work from the middle of the XIX century preserves references to some major things that people used to believe in the past, such as witchcraft or relics. It went through many editions, which may have added, or removed, some of the content.

✓ (Ramsay) MacMullen, *Christianity & Paganism in  
the Fourth to Eighth Centuries* \*

Although this book covers an important, and seldom studied, period of the Christian and Pagan confrontation, unfortunately it is also written in a way which makes it particularly complicated to read. In fact, chances are that most readers won't enjoy this work, as I myself didn't.

✓ Macrobius, *Saturnalia*

As the *Attic Nights* and the *Deipnosophistae* already mentioned before, this is a work which preserves a lot cultural miscellanea, ranging from long debates on the poetry of Virgil up to the age old question, "Who came first, the egg or the chicken?". It is precisely for that vast repository of information this book is famous for.

✓ (Maurice) Maeterlinck, *The Blue Bird*

A play in six acts about two children who look for the blue bird of happiness, and which I always felt still appears to be specially popular in Japan. Although the plot has some very curious elements, such as the metaphorical attribution of life and dialogues to fire, animals and light, among others, the ending is also quite strange in the context of this as a story for children.

- ✓ (Francesco Scipione) Maffei, *A arte magica anniquilada*

A Portuguese translation of an original (in Italian?), this work attempts to prove that magic is all an illusion, and it does so based essentially in evidence from the Antiquity and the Church Fathers. It's a good book, it attains its goal, but it also leaves many questions unanswered when it just mentions some specific beliefs but never actually tells us where they came from.

- ✓ (Jorge Eduardo) Magalhães, *O Encoberto: a comédia do impostor*

A brief research article on Natália Correia's *O Encoberto*, a text once banned in Portugal. The author makes many references to the plot, but unfortunately does not seem to recap it all, as I had hoped.

- ✓ (William Dennes) Mahan, *The Archko Volume* \*

Compiled near the end of the XIX century, this work seemingly presents multiple textual sources which attest the life of Jesus Christ as represented in the New Testament. And those would definitely be very



precious sources, if it wasn't for the fact that the texts presented here are just composed of forgeries and plagiarized from other literary sources (including the famous *Ben-Hur* novel).

✓ (Eduardo) Maia, *A Jantareida*

With a very limited publication at the end of the XIX century, this short "epic" poem adapts some verses and ideas from Camões' *Lusíadas* to the context of a dinner some college students from Medicine in Portugal once had. It is far from a memorable poem, but the whole is certainly funny, specially if you're familiar with the original epic.

✓ (Richard Henry) Major, *On the Discovery of Australia by the Portuguese in 1601*

This brief research paper presents some succinct evidence that Australia may have been discovered by the Portuguese. The evidence provided makes some sense, but it is far from conclusive.

✓ (Saint) Malachy, *Prophecy of the Popes*

This famous prophecy contains small phrases supposedly describing 112-113 popes that would reign

before the end of the world. In the available version, from Arnold Wyon's *Lignum Vitae*, it also contains some interpretations.

But is it all true? Will "Peter the Roman" be the final pope? Anyone who carefully reads this book will certainly notice that the book is more detailed, and makes more sense, for the popes who lived before its publication, and a huge element of wishful thinking is required for the more recent ones. So, this work essentially seems to contain false prophecies, forged a few years before its publication for currently-unknown reasons.

✓ (Gabriel) Malagrida, *Juizo da Verdadeira Causa do Terremoto que Padeceo a Corte de Lisboa(...)*

Published a year after the famous earthquake of Lisbon, the author here defends the idea that God sent that calamity to punish people for their sins and miscellaneous misdeeds. Although the author quotes extensively from the biblical texts in Latin, his arguments are far from convincing.

✓ (John) Malalas, *Chronicle*

Although Malalas' work preserves many unusual

versions of myths, one has to wonder what kind of sources he relied on to obtain his information. I always felt that he was either making it all up, or obtaining his mythological information from a source so profoundly obscure and strange that nobody else ever decided to use it.

✓ (Thomas) Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* \*

Written near the end of the XV century, this is the work that most completely preserves the adventures of King Arthur and his famous knights. It is essentially a book that you can read in order to get to know all his most famous events, but at the same time it also devotes too many pages to side quests; at one moment you're reading the main story and you're extremely interested in what is going on, and in the next page you're back accompanying a very secondary character in search of something that you don't really care about. Although such a problem certainly comes from the fact that Malory was trying to condense many different stories in a single plot line, it often makes the work boring, as you're just not able to effectively focus in the main adventures.

- ✓ (John) Mandeville?, *The travels of Sir John Mandeville*

Written around the XIV century, possibly by a man named John Mandeville, this work preserves travels in which reality and fiction frequently cross each other, and in which Circe's Island is almost as important as Christ's tomb. Nonetheless, I read it because it had an importance influence in the minds of men like Christopher Columbus.

- ✓ Manoel da Veiga, *Vida, virtudes e doutrina admiravel de Simao Gomes, vulgarmente chamado o Çapateiro Santo*

From 1759, as the title promises this work presents the life and some of the ideas of Simão Gomes, best known in Portuguese tradition as a "holy cobbler". The first part of the work presents some facts of his life, very similar to a saint's, while the second preserves his ideas. Curiously, if the author briefly mentions the fact this man used to prophesize the future, he mentions any of his specific prophecies at all.

- ✓ Manuel de Faria y Sousa, *Historia del Reyno de Portugal* \*

Also known as "*Epitome de las historias portuguesas*" in previous editions, this work essentially presents a history of Portugal from the time of Noah's flood up the author's time in 1730. It preserves, here and there, some legends, including – in the fifth volume – a listing of some strange occurrences in Portugal.

- ✓ Manuel de Sousa, *As Origens dos Apelidos das Famílias Portuguesas* \*

This unusual book features hundreds of last names from Portuguese families, and briefly jots down their origins. The reader seems to get no real sources for that information, and so they are left wondering how the author really knows about X or Y.

- ✓ Mao Tse-Tung, *Red Book*

Also famous under other names, this work preserves some quotations from the speeches of Mao Tse-Tung. They have some political and philosophical interest, but at least once the author does tell us a legend from China.

- ✓ (Clyde) Mandelin, *Legends of Localization – The Legend of Zelda*

This is a book on the changes between the Japanese and the English versions of the first Zelda game. They are not very text-heavy, and so the author essentially focuses on the few changes, mistranslations, adaptations in the content and the reasons behind them, etc. It's a bit of an interesting work if you're a fan of the games.

✓ Manetho, *Aegyptica* (f)

Only extant in fragments, this work apparently contained information on the succession of monarchs in Egypt. It may have contained more information on other subjects too, but none of the extant fragments appear to show it.

✓ Mani(?), *Book of Hymns*

Seemingly a compilation of hymns by the prophet Mani and other undisclosed authors, celebrating their religion and its many aspects. A few of them do preserve mythology-related aspects of the religion, but most don't.

✓ Mani(?), *Kephalaia* \*

A work, perhaps compiled from oral sources, of the

doctrines of Manichaeism. The text isn't always that easy to follow, particularly given the fact it is occasionally fragmentary, but it deserves to be noted for the fact it appears to be the currently-extant resource which best preserves the original ideas of Mani and his religion.

✓      Mani, *Shabuhragan*      (f)

Although it only seems to have reached us in a fragmentary form, this work was apparently a summary in Persian of the doctrines of Manichaeism. In the way in which it has reached us, it seems to preserve part of the original eschatology.

✓      Manichaeen Publications, *Introducing the Holy Manichaeen Faith*

I could not find out who truly wrote this resource, but the content it presents across its 25 pages seems to match what I have read elsewhere, as if the whole document was written by someone perfectly familiar with this religion. Overall, it is a good introduction to their beliefs, but it also appears to assume the reader already knows at least a little bit about it and its main beliefs.

- ✓ (Alexandre Manuel Viegas) Maniés, *O crucificado Bom Jesus de Matosinhos: Estudo técnico – conservação e restauro de uma escultura medieval* \*

This master thesis talks extensively about the Good Jesus of Bouças, or Matosinhos, in the north of Portugal, which the legend attributes to the first century of our era. Although, unfortunately, the author does not talk much about the legends themselves, this work features an extensive exploration of the sculpture and the results of many tests conducted in it. The author concludes that it is likely from the Middle Ages, the depiction of Christ seemingly being older than the cross attached to it.

- ✓ Mara bar Serapion, *Letter*

This letter is best known for preserving an early and independent reference to a “Wise King of the Jews” who was killed for instituting new laws, which is potentially a non-christian reference to Jesus Christ made in the first or second centuries of our era. However, the letter itself also has an interest which goes way beyond that simple element – it was written



by Mara in order to advise his own son on the best way to face life, and it contains many ideas which are still completely valuable for our own day and age.

- ✓ Mara Wilson, *Where Am I Now? True Stories of Girlhood and Accidental Fame*

A biography of the girl best known for having played Matilda in the famous movie, it deserves to be noted for the unorthodox way in which she presents her plot, basically contrasting what people would have imagined of her with her real life.

- ✓ Marcellus of Side, *On Lycanthropy* (f)

Likely the oldest reference to Lycanthropy as a real disease, even if the work is only available to us in a fragmentary form. The fragment succinctly tells us how someone suffering from this disease acts like, and how to recognise its symptoms in a potential patient. More extensively, it also points out recipes on how to cure it, if someone is unlucky enough to find one suffering from it.

- ✓ (João de) Marchi, *A Verdadeira História de Fátima*

This story of the miracles of Fátima, apparently also available in English, contains not only the original reports but also information from several people who lived through the events themselves.

✓ Marco Polo, *Travels*

Arguably among the most famous books ever written, it presents Polo's travels in multiple Asian countries, in a blend of travel literature and ethnographic work. Almost all of it sounds real, but some sections appear to be of a legendary nature.

- (Clemente) Marconi, *Greek Vases: Images, Contexts and Controversies* \*

✓ Marcos Jorge, *Doctrina christam*

Published in the middle of the XVI century, this work introduces readers to the christian doctrine, as it existed at the time, through a method of question and answer directed at children. It is particularly curious for the fact many of the beliefs presented here either no longer exist, or have later been significantly changed for our own day and age.

- Marcus Manilius, *Astronomica*

- ✓ Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*

A small, and yet profoundly inspiring, book of meditations written by Marcus Aurelius. It provides plenty of reasons for readers to think about life and their own circumstances.

- ✓ (Kathleen) Marden, *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience*

A second-hand report on the Barney and Betty Hill incident, by a woman who knew them personally. It has some interesting chapters, particularly presenting what happened to them in a more complete form, but also some which are a bit boring. Overall, if you're interested in the whole case, this book may give you some less known information about it.

- Margery Kempe, *The Book of Margery Kempe* \*

- ✓ Mariana Alcoforado, *Cartas Portuguesas*

Published in the second half of the XVII century, this work preserves the supposed five letters a nun from Portugal wrote to her former lover in France. One

cannot be completely sure of their veracity, but at least they seem to preserve a purity of feelings often associated with a first love. Whether the story that lies behind them is true or not, chances are that we will never actually know.

✓       Marianus of Eleutheropolis, *Lupercalia* (f)

A small fragment of a poem by this author, essentially just mentioning the name of "Rome" as a daughter of Aesculapius.

✓       Marinus of Neapolis, *Life of Proclus*

A life of Proclus, a philosopher from the V century AD, written by his successor. Perhaps noteworthy due to its references to many connections between the main figure and the deities of his time.

✓       Mário Pais de Oliveira, *Fátima Nunca Mais*

This book, by a priest from Portugal who did not believe in the local miracles of Fátima, often reads like a huge rant, but it does make some good points on the whole changing story, and on the contrast between Fátima's specific message and that of the mainstream church.

- (A.) Marjanen, *A Companion to 2nd Century Christian Heretics*

✓ (Jim) Marks, *Inset narratives in the Epic Cycle*  
A research paper on some of the inset narratives (i.e. essentially moments in which characters recall the past or refer to the future) which likely occurred in the Trojan War section of the Epic Cycle.

- ✓ (Amália) Marques, *Mouras, Mouros e Mourinhos Encantados em Lendas do Norte e Sul de Portugal* \*

A master thesis studying a class of legendary beings seemingly exclusive to Portugal – the females, males and children belonging to the “species” of the Enchanted Moors. Overall, the study is an interesting one, but it should be noted the author only focused on 30 tales, and so her conclusions may not apply to all others involving these beings.

- ✓ Marquês de Abrantes, *Introdução ao Estudo da Heráldica*

This book’s name is certainly misleading. It is not

really an introduction to the study of Heraldry, but more precisely a very short history of the same area of study in Portugal. A reader expecting otherwise – like I was – will be sorely disappointed.

- ✓ Marquês de Pombal, *Carta que (...) escreveu a seu filho (...)*

Written near the end of 1779, this letter to his son expresses how sick the famous figure from Portugal was at the time. It deserves to be noted, if for no other reason, for the fact he genuinely seems to be dying at the time, and so he was writing exclusively to express to his beloved son what was going on with him.

- ✓ Marquis de Sade, *The 120 Days of Sodom* \*

This is likely the most horrendous of all books I have ever had access to, to the point it made me realize that book censorship is not always a bad thing. I'd rather not even describe it, and instead just say that unless you are completely psychopathic, or an abominable paedophile, you should stay away from it at all costs – and I strongly ask you to accept my suggestion in this point.

- ✓ Marquis de Sade, *Dialogue between a Priest and a Dying Man*

A short dialogue in which a dying man unexpectedly rejects the idea of God while in his deathbed. It presents a simple philosophy of rejecting many of the ideas typically presented under those circumstances.

- ✓ Marquis de Sade, *Historiettes, Contes et Fabliaux* \*

Despite its seemingly harmless title, this work contains a variety of stories of varying length, their common point being the presence of sexual elements. There is perhaps one or two stories here which are a bit funny, but overall they really tend to focus more on sex and sexuality than in anything that may significantly profit the reader.

- ✓ (M. Cardoso) Martha, *Folclore da Figueira da Foz*  
Through its two volumes, this work contains some folkloric information collected in a location near the centre of Portugal in early XX century. Perhaps one of its most interesting aspects is a chapter which contains old games, almost forgotten by now, and briefly

presents all of their rules.

✓      Martial, *On the Public Shows of Domitian*

Describing many different aspects of the aforementioned public shows, from the animals which appeared in them up to gladiatorial battles and some mythological representations.

✓      Martianus Capella, *On the Marriage of Philology and Mercury*      \*

An allegorical work of extreme importance in the Middle Ages, since it popularized – but did not invent, that honour seems to be assigned to one of Varro's lost works – the idea of the Seven Liberal Arts. It presents a metaphorical marriage of Mercury and Philology, described in the first two books, following which the god offers his new wife the gift of the Liberal Arts; each of those Arts then appears and presents herself, together with her particular gifts to the world, in a very complex and allegorical way.

This is one of those works that you can't simply pick up and read, unless you're looking for something very specific. Otherwise, you'd likely find it very boring, and that's the main reason why most non-specialized



references always stress the same exact thing about the work – “it popularized the idea of the Seven Liberal Arts” – but not much more.

- ✓ (Dale B.) Martin, *Inventing Superstition: From the Hippocratics to the Christians*

On how the concept of “superstition” was born and evolved through time, from the earliest philosopher all the way through the first centuries of Christianity.

- ✓ (José Marugan y) Martin, *Description (...) del Reino de Portugal y de los Algarbes* \*

Published in the second quarter of the XIX century, the two tomes which compose this book describe Portugal in many different areas. Although no chapters focus specifically on myths and legends, when the author describes cities and villages sometimes he provides some quick information on the origin of their names.

- ✓ Martin del Rio, *Disquisitionum magicarum libri sex* \*

By a XVI century author, the first four volumes of this work basically present us with how Magic was seen in the author’s own time, with the last two explaining

how to try cases related to magic, and providing advice on how to handle some aspects of the topic. This is a specially interesting work if you're interested in how Magic was imagined at the time.

✓ Martin of Braga, *Reforming the Rustics*

A short work in which the author briefly explains the doctrines of Christianity, while also criticizing some pagan beliefs and rituals from his own day and age. Regrettably, he just alludes to those beliefs and rituals without saying much about each of them, which is sadly tantalizing.

✓ Martin of Braga, *Rules for an Honest Life*

Another short work, in which the author provides some rules for a good life, setting them around four main poles and also advising that true virtue is in the mean.

✓ (Javier) Martinez, *Fakes and Forgers of Classical Literature*

A compilation of scholarly texts about some detected instances of fake works and forgeries which occurred in Classical Antiquity. However, the work is actually a lot less interesting than my words about it may make it

sound.

- ✓ (Frutos) Martinez y Lumbreras, *España y Portugal y Sus Banderas*

A short work, mostly presenting the flag – from 1874 – of Spain and Portugal. Unfortunately, the work, in itself, is always far from informative or pleasing, simply stating some basic facts about both, and not even approaching the subject of their evolution.

- ✓ (J. P. Oliveira) Martins, *A Vida de Nun'Alvares* \*  
Based on the title you'd perhaps assume this is a life of Nuno Alvares Pereira, but instead it seems more of a work about the times in which that historical figure rose, portrayed in a way in which he himself is almost a secondary figure.

- ✓ (Mário) Martins, *A sátira na literatura medieval portuguesa* \*

A brief overview of the satires produced in Portugal during the Middle Ages.

- ✓ (Surya N.) Maruvada, *Who is Who in Hindu Mythology: A Comprehensive Collection of*

*Stories from the Puranas* \*

Essentially, this is an encyclopedia of hindu myths, ordered by their main characters. As such, through its two volumes it does feature lots of information on the subject, but it is not exactly something you can simply pick up and read, as I had hoped when I acquired it. Besides, although each entry mentions the textual source it was taken from, it'd be best if the author also provided more precise information on his sources (e.g. simply saying "the *Mahabharata*" is not enough).

✓ (Ulrich) Marzolph, *101 Middle Eastern Tales, and Their Impact on Western Oral Tradition*

When it comes down to stories, this is perhaps among the best and most interesting books I ever read. The author sums up 101 stories from western tradition, and then tells the stories behind each of them, almost always tracking down their literary origins. So, you get not only the stories themselves, but also the stories behind those stories, which is as unusual as it is interestingly unique.

✓ (Phil) Mason, *Napoleon's Hemorrhoids ... And Other Small Events That Changed History* \*

A book about small “things” that eventually ended up leading to major events. Each section is very short, only one or two pages long, but provides enough contextual information for the reader to understand each “thing”’s significant impact.

✓ (G.) Maspero, *Popular Stories of Ancient Egypt* \*

Seemingly the oldest work collecting stories from Ancient Egyptian papyrus, an edition with introduction by Hasan El-Shamy was produced more recently and adds even more information to the original, complementing the actual stories with data on their origin and plenty of comments.

✓ (Austin Peter) Matelson, *Interior Mentalities in the Twelfth Century: The Cultural Intersection of Social Change, Romance, Literature, and Historiography*

It took me a few months to obtain this thesis, given the fame of its author in other areas. It has some interest in the area here at hand, since Matelson explores a bit the reasons why some medieval heroes acted the way they did in their respective stories.

- ✓ (Julius) Maternus, *On the error of the profane religions*

More than an apology to Christianity, this is an attack on the so-called pagan religions, in which the author asks the emperors to impose further measures against them. However, what is most interesting about this work is that it tends to provide very succinct and precise arguments, going straight to his points instead of amplifying them to occupy many pages.

- ✓ (Cotton) Mather, *The Wonders of the Invisible World. Observations as Well Historical as Theological, upon the Nature, the Number, and the Operations of the Devils* \*

This literary source, written in 1693, is perhaps most notable for defending the Salem Witch Trials and presenting all the cultural environment that led to them. The work, in itself, is a bit tedious, but it does present some significant beliefs from its time, along with the strange ghost story of one Joseph Beacon, and reports from five of the witch trials (which were based on the actual court documents, as the author reports).

- ✓ (Carlo) Mattogno, *Auschwitz: The End of a Legend: Critique of Jean-Claude Pressac* \*

In this work the author focuses on the gas chambers of Auschwitz, to show there are some important inconsistencies in the historical facts attributed to them. He quotes from many other works and even presents, at the end of book, some evidence of his arguments.

- ✓ (Ricardo Pinto de) Mattos, *Manual Bibliographico Portuguez de Livros Raros, Clássicos e Curiosos*

An index of some books written and published in Portugal by the XIX century. Although outdated (many books which were really rare back then are now easy to find online, and vice-versa), it allows the reader to access some information on now-forgotten works; regrettably, with very few exceptions the author barely ever tells us anything about the content of each work, and so one is left to infer it from the titles alone.

- ✓ Maurício de Sousa, *Turma da Mônica – Lendas Brasileiras*

Naturally for kids, this book presents the most famous legends from Brazil with beautiful drawings and very

simple text. However, it should be noted that the stories were adapted, and so may not represent the original tales as they're known among adults in the same country.

✓ (L. F. Alfred) Maury, *Les fées du Moyen-Age*

This is essentially a research paper, but it makes quite an effective argument regarding the medieval origin of the fairies, as descendant of some of the beliefs from the Antiquity.

✓ Maximianus, *Elegies* \*

A small collection of six elegies, containing some erotic elements.

✓ Maximus the Confessor, *The Life of the Virgin*\*

Apparently the earliest complete biography of the Virgin Mary, the author admitting he got his information both from previous writers and famous apocryphal sources. However, it should be noted this is also a very laudatory composition, in which Maximus even reports on several supposed prophecies coming from the Old Testament, relating them to the life and events of the mother of Christ.



- ✓ (Adrienne) Mayor, *The First Fossil Hunters: Dinosaurs, Mammoths, and Myth in Greek and Roman Times* \*

A book on references to prehistorical remains in the Antiquity. It does make some good points, and in at least one case I found myself wondering how exactly I had never noticed a vase in which a fossil-monster can clearly be seen. It also includes an appendix with extracts from classical authors that support this author's thesis. A more recent edition may further call this book *The First Fossil Hunters*.

- ✓ (Sharon) Mazer, *Professional Wrestling: Sport and Spectacle*

This book considers the main elements of professional wrestling from a scholar standpoint. The whole idea is interesting, but the author also approaches the topic in a very broad way, without ever focusing more specifically in any point of the way. Also, she uses some dated examples, which the reader may not entirely understand unless they are well familiarized with the history of professional wrestling in North America.

✓ (Helen) McCarthy, *A Brief History of Manga*

The title says it all in this case, this book features a very simple history of Japanese manga, complete with some images from each notable title. It's a basic reading which is certainly able you to inform you about the topic at hand without much hassle.

✓ (A. L.) McClanan, *Griffinology*

A work on Griffins (the mythological beast, that is), covering their origin in the Antiquity all the way up to their relevance in our own day and age. Whenever possible, the author provides images to support the text, which is quite unusual but very pleasing.

✓ (Andrew) McClellan, *Jumbo: Marvel, Myth, and Mascot*

A small book, and yet beautifully adorned with many photos and drawings, that reports the entire story of the elephant Jumbo, particularly famous to this day in the UK and USA. Despite not being very long, it tells you almost everything you'd like to know about this subject.

- ✓ (Jennette) McCurdy, *I'm Glad My Mom Died*

This is an interesting book in the sense that it presents some mental illnesses from the perspective of an insider.

- ✓ (D. R.) McElroy, *Superstitions: A Handbook of Folklore, Myths and Legends From Around the World* \*

When I first opened this book, it seemed like a pretty bad one. So, as a test I located the single entry related to Portugal, and it contained more incorrect information than lines. So, yes, this work contains very basic information on myths, legends and superstitions from around the world, but they're almost always incomplete or just plain wrong.

- ✓ (Jon) McGinnis, *Classical Arabic Philosophy: An Anthology of Sources* \*

It contains some texts from authors as famous as Averroes and Avicenna, along with others, but the introduction provided to each of them is also a very basic one.

- ✓ (Donald M.) McKale, *Hitler, The Survival Myth* \*

A work exploring some of the myths associated with Adolf Hitler at the end of World War 2.

- ✓ (Stephen) McKenna, *Paganism and Pagan Survivals in Spain: Up to the Fall of the Visigothic Kingdom*

Although the author fairly admits there are not many primary textual sources to rely on for the evolution of religious beliefs in Hispania – and it should be stressed this work also talks about Lusitania, not just “Spain” in itself – this is quite an interesting book on the prevalence of pagan religious beliefs and traditions through the very first centuries of our era. However, it also isn’t a very long one, and so it can be seen as a noteworthy introduction to the subject, perhaps even readable by all kinds of audiences without much difficulty.

- ✓ (J. C.) McKeown, *A Cabinet of Ancient Medical Curiosities* \*

Based on its title, I assumed this work would be about strange medical cases from the Classical Antiquity. Instead, the author just compiled quotes related to Medicine and the medical arts which he considered

"curious". To me, a small number of them did seem worthy of note, and perhaps even a bit pleasing to today's readers, but overall I could not find them as amusing as I had hoped.

- ✓ (Sean) McLachlan, *The Mysterious British Isles: A Collection of Mysteries, Legends, and Unexplained Phenomena across Britain and Ireland*

This work's title says pretty much what it contains, but I should add that it presents those topics in a very brief way, and with some occasional images.

- ✓ (Frank) McLynn, *Gengis Khan: His Conquests, His Empire, His Legacy* \*

I picked this book when I was searching for an introduction to the life and events of Gengis Khan. And, although it presents precisely what I was looking for, the book is also incredibly detailed, even if we want to consider it as a notable product of scholarly investigation. Time and again, I found myself wishing it progressed quicker, or was much less detailed in its endless sequence of information; however, if you're looking for a very extended and detailed book on

Gengis Khan's historical context, life and deeds, this is almost certainly what you seek.

✓ (Brian) McWilliams, *Spam Kings*

From 2004, this book details the rise and development of the lives and activities of several people from the US connected to the e-mail spam business. It is a noteworthy read if you're interested in how that technology evolved across time.

✓ (D. Francisco Manuel de) Melo, *Carta de Guia de Casados* \*

Written in the middle of the XVII century, this is a work which provides advice to married couples, written for a nobleman. Although most of the advice provided doesn't apply to our own day and age, there are still some interesting quotes and ideas in this work.

✓ (D. Francisco Manuel de) Melo, *Feira dos Anexins* \*

Quite an unusual work, in which people interact with each other just through sayings from Portugal. There's not really a plot, at least not in the sections I read, but this is still a noteworthy work for preserving many

ideas that could otherwise have been lost through time.

- ✓ (Felipe Sampaio do Nascimento) *Melquiades, Ressignificando Personagens do Folclore Brasileiro no universo visual de Pokémon*

In this thesis, the author picked two legendary creatures from the folklore of Brazil and attempted to make Pokémon creatures out of them. I did not particularly like the end result, but the process he followed to gather information on each being, and how he then used such data to create his own creatures, is very detailed and worthy of special note in here.

- ✓ (Brad) Meltzer, *History Decoded: The 10 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time*

The title says pretty well what this is all about – essentially, the author presents 10 culturally significant conspiracies, and he does so in a mostly unbiased way. He also presents some evidence readers can literally find in the book itself, which is a nice touch.

- Menander, *The Grouch*

✓ Mencius(?), *Mencius* \*

Attributed to Mencius but supposedly written by his followers, this is a short collection of dialogues and sayings attributed to that philosopher from IV BC China. Here and there, it displays some notable philosophical ideas.

• (Manuel Odorico) Mendes, *Opúsculo acerca do Palmeirim de Inglaterra e do seu autor* \*

✓ Mendes dos Remédios, *História da Literatura Portuguesa* \*

A succinct story of Portuguese Literature, from its origins to the XIX century. For each significant period the author provides the literary context, before describing the main authors, their individual works, and even providing some extracts from them. Although most of the information presented here is now probably in need of significant updates, it is an enjoyable work if you are looking for an overall view of literature from Portugal across the centuries.

✓ (Francisco Xavier de) Menezes, *Henriqueida* \*

A XVIII century epic poem on Henry of Burgundy,



father of the first king of Portugal. Although it contains countless mythological references, overall it is also a significantly poor and boring work.

- ✓ (Anthony S.) Mercatante, *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend: Third Edition* \*

"World Mythology" is way too broad of a category for this one, since it features some occasional myths and legends from less usual places, but overall it contains hundreds and hundreds of entries of Western Mythology, but only some lesser articles on those same topics from Brazil, Spain, etc. At the same time, the authors never mention where they got some piece of information, and so you have to check the enormous bibliography at the end of the book and magically hope you can come across, by pure accident, the specific source you may be looking for. Finally, it also has some significant inaccuracies in at least some articles.

- ✓ (Samuel A. B.) Mercer, *The Pyramid Texts* \*
- An English translation of all the pyramid texts from Sakkara. Although they contain plenty of mythological references, they're too often diffuse and difficult to

follow the plot in.

✓ (Pseudo-)Methodius, *Apocalypse*

Possibly written in the VII century, this work supposedly predicts a coming end of times, but it is among the first to associate it with the "sons of Ismael", i.e. the Islamists. It is essentially a short history of the world, from the beginning to its end, which mixes fact and fiction quite a lot.

✓ (Marvin) Meyer, *The Gnostic Bible: Revised and Expanded Edition* \*

A selection of texts somewhat related to early and medieval Christianity. They're not all "gnostic" *per se*, but the authors do a good job in introducing them and providing readers with enough information to understand the context and nuances of each individual extract.

✓ (Marvin) Meyer, *Judas: The definitive collection of gospels and legends about the infamous apostle of Jesus* \*

A compilation of some texts which present "different" ways in which Judas, the apostle, was seen. Yes, with

one exception they tend to be negative ones, but one is also left wondering if there wasn't a time in which he was seen quite differently.

- ✓ (Matthew) Meyer, *The Hour of Meeting Evil Spirits: an Encyclopedia of Mononoke and Magic\**

Essentially a brief encyclopedia with information on some creatures from Japanese folklore, complete with occasional images. Unfortunately, it does not provide any real information on what other sources you can consult to know more about so-and-so, and in some cases it is all just very bare bones.

- ✓ (Thierry) Meyssan, *9/11 The Big Lie* \*

This book argues that there is potentially a hidden side to the whole events of 9/11 in the US. Whether the author is correct or not I'm not qualified to judge, but some of the evidence he presents definitely raises some questions.

- ✓ Michael the Archimandrite, *Life of Saint Nicholas of Myra*

Compiled in the IX century of our era, this is the

earliest complete biography of Saint Nicholas, the figure who eventually inspired our Santa. This work has all the usual characteristics of the genre, attributing multiple miracles to the hero before and after his death.

✓ Michelangelo, Poems \*

About three hundred poems attributed to Michelangelo, the famous sculptor from the Renaissance, reached us. Most of them seem to be incomplete, but the ones which aren't, seldom feature significant mythological references.

✓ (Madeline) Miller, *Circe*

This is a romance in which the figure of Circe is made the main character. The work, in itself, is somewhat of an autobiography of the figure, joining together myths in which she already appeared, but also adding some new ones. It is a pleasing work even if you have no interest in Mythology, and instead just want to read what is a bit like a love story.

✓ (Madeline) Miller, *The Song of Achilles*

A retelling of the Trojan War from the standpoint of

Patroclus. It frequently respects the original myths, but it also further emphasizes the relationship between this hero and Achilles. Also, after the main character's death, the plot becomes oversimplified and far from pleasing, which is certainly disappointing.

- ✓ (John) Milton, *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*

An epic poem – and its sequel – about Satan's influence in the biblical texts. Although he is the plot's hero, what is explored here are his motivations and the impact he himself had on Christian belief; I should stress this is not an apology for Satan, but one for Christianity from Satan's unusual point of view.

- ✓ Minucius Felix, *Octavius*

An apologetic dialogue between a Pagan and a Christian, written in favour of the latter religion and with some content which seems to come from the works of Cicero.

- ✓ (Gina) Misiroglu, *The Superhero Book: The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Comic-Book Icons and Hollywood Heroes*

Essentially an encyclopedia on superheroes. It contains plenty of significant information on those it covers, but it is not always obvious why some shows/heroes were included while others weren't.

- ✓ (Soula) Mitakidou, *Folktales from Greece: A Treasury of Delights*

A collection of a few folk tales from modern Greece, with some of them presenting elements and plot points that seem to come from ancient times, such as the story of "Alexander the Great and the Mermaid".

- ✓ (A. B.) Mitford, *Tales of Old Japan* \*

In spite of its name, perhaps it would be best to see this work as one of anthropological nature. It does feature many important stories from Japan, some of them even contextualized with proper introductions and explanations, but also a few children's stories, Buddhist sermons, etc. It is only to be regretted that the author did not give a proper introduction to every tale he decided to include in this work, providing too much information to some and too few when it comes to others.

✓ Mkhitar Gosh, *Fables*

From XII century Armenia, his compilation contains very simple fables involving plants, animals and, rarely, even historical figures. Each fable has an explicit moral at the end, which seems to have been common at the time.

✓ Moisés Espírito Santo, *A Religião Popular Portuguesa*

Quite a fascinating book, reporting on a very significant number of religious traditions from Portugal, typically from the north of the country. Unfortunately, although the author repeatedly provides very intriguing pieces of information, he hardly ever tells readers where he got them from, making it very hard to use this book for more extensive research on those traditional beliefs of the country.

✓ Moisés Espírito Santo, *Os Mouros Fatimidas e as Aparições de Fátima*

This curious book shows some coincidences between the medieval beliefs of some branches of Islam and the supposedly-miraculous happenings in the early XX century in Fátima, Portugal. The author does not seem

to suggest they're indisputably linked, but he does show many alleged coincidences between them.

- ✓ (Patricia) Monaghan, *Encyclopedia of Goddesses and Heroines* \*

A so-so encyclopedia which briefly presents goddesses and heroines from several cultures around the globe, but it has some strange aspects to it. For example, sometimes the author mentions many goddesses from a culture, but only bolds the names of some of them, and later dedicates small articles to them; why even give the names of the remaining ones, if she wasn't going to say anything about them at all? Other times, she talks about many figures from specific mythologies, but never properly introduces their pantheons or main figures. Overall, you can use to find some basic information on some female figures and heroes, but that's about it.

- ✓ (António) Monteiro, *As Aparições da Cova da Iria*  
This book can be divided into two major sections. In the first, the author presents some problems with the orthodox version of the miracles of Fátima, in Portugal, which do raise some significant questions. The second



one, though, in which the author presents his own theory, is a lot weaker and unlikely to convince most readers.

- (Pedro) Monteiro, *O Memorial das Proezas da Segunda Távola Redonda*

✓ Monteiro Lobato, *O Saci*

In this fictional tale several creatures from Brazilian folklore are mentioned almost side by side. The author provides some basic information on them, but the Saci (or Sacy) really takes the main stage for most of the story.

- ✓ Monteiro Lobato, *O Saci-Pererê: Resultado de um Inquérito* \*

A study on the mythical creature from Brazil named Saci. Essentially, the author asked people from all over the country of Brazil to report what specific beliefs they had about him, and then he reproduced part of their answers here, which allows readers to get first-hand knowledge on the topic.

- Monteiro Lobato, *Reinações de Narizinho* –

*Edição de Luxo*

- (C. H.) Moore, *Pagan Ideas of Immortality During the Early Roman Empire*
- (C. H.) Moore, *The Religious Thought of the Greeks*

- ✓ (Paulo) Morais-Alexandre, *A arte e a heráldica autárquica em Portugal*

A brief article on the intersection between art and the portrayals present in regional coats of arms from Portugal. It is a very simple one, but deserves to be noted for the fact its author included some illustrations of specific blazons he references as part of his research.

- ✓ (Thomas) More, *Utopia*

Although it also contains some brief references to Classical Literature here and there, this book is most worthy of mention as referencing an ideal government and culture which supposedly existed in the (fictional) land of Utopia.

- ✓ (Jon) Morris, *The League of Regrettable Sidekicks*

On the backstories of unusual sidekicks from comic books. I read this one after *The League of Regrettable Superheroes* (see below), but found it to have very limited general interest, unless you're a huge comic book fan.

- ✓ (Jon) Morris, *The League of Regrettable Superheroes: Half-Baked Heroes from Comic Book History*

An unusual book summing up the backstories of some strange, and often forgotten, comic book heroes. Perhaps significant for the fact that it may help challenge the beliefs of what truly constitutes a hero in our western cultures.

- ✓ (Jon) Morris, *The League of Regrettable Supervillains*

On the backstories of some unusual villains from comic books. Again, it kind of may make us consider what constitutes a villain, but it is not a particularly interesting work.

- ✓ Moschus, *Europa*

A poem on the myth of the Rape of Europa, containing

a very charming description of the whole episode.

✓ Moschus, *Lament for Bion*

If Bion wrote a *Lament for Adonis*, this poem adapts that same subject in order to create a lament for the same author. It is allegedly, but not undoubtedly, by Moschus.

✓ Moschus, *Megara*

Also attributed to Moschus, this poem contains a small conversation between Megara and Alcmene, i.e. respectively Heracles' wife and mother, after the hero had killed his own sons.

✓ (John) Moschus, *Spiritual Meadow* \*

These are somewhat strange reports from John Moschus' travels, in which he apparently received a lot of information on the spiritual experiences of others.

✓ Moses de León, *Zohar* \*

Perhaps the most famous and significant text of Jewish Mysticism, understanding it requires a deep knowledge of Judaism and a very profound study of the words presented here. It occasionally preserves some myths

and legends from this religion, but they're frequently presented in a complex form.

✓ Moses of Ingolia, Letter To Him and His Reply  
An (anonymous) letter that Moses of Ingolia received, and his reply to it, both probably written around the VI century of our era. They both contain many biblical quotations, along with the information that the text known to us as *Joseph and Aseneth* contains a dangerous hidden meaning, which, unfortunately, was originally revealed but ultimately censored in the letter itself.

✓ (Candida) Moss, *The Myth of Persecution: How Early Christians Invented a Story of Martyrdom*  
This author argues here that many of the stories of martyrdom which reached us from the Antiquity are not exactly true. For most readers, this may seem like a very strange idea, but as you read through the book you actually see that her arguments make a lot of sense, and it is indeed quite possible that many, if not the great majority, of martyrdom stories from the Antiquity are not true, and were actually forged for political and commercial reasons.

✓ (Anabela) Mota, *Espiral do Conto*

This is a small book – approximately 51 pages – written by some young students from Portugal and edited by their teacher. Essentially, it contains small stories and legends from the area of Palmela, in Portugal, retold in a very simple way (as you'd expect from young students), and complemented with one of their drawings at the end. Despite its small size, it is quite a charming book.

✓ (Luiz) Mott, *O Sexo Proibido: Virgens, Gays e Escravos nas Garras da Inquisição*

This book presents how sexual life was for slaves, gays and virgins in the time of the Portuguese Inquisition. The author dedicates a main chapter to each of them, and provides extensive quotes from and allusions to primary sources coming from the Inquisition files, which is particularly important since those cases aren't generally and otherwise edited. Overall, this is a good book if you're looking for any of the three subjects at hand, although the way he treats the third one is mostly introductory.

✓ (Carroll) Moulton, *The End of the Odyssey*

A research paper on the original ending of the *Odyssey*, with the current one apparently being a late addition.

✓ (José Viale) Moutinho, *Portugal Lendário: O Livro de Ouro Das Nossas Lendas e Tradições* \*

A massive book, with illustrations, seemingly presenting one legend from each main town of Portugal. Some are interesting, some not so much, and others arguably not the best for the area the author included them in. Curiously, he also mentions his sources but only for some of the stories, which is a bit puzzling. Nonetheless, it is an interesting book, perhaps especially for younger audiences.

✓ Musaeus Grammaticus, *Hero and Leander*

A small poem on the infrequent myth of the two figures named on the title.

- Musashi Miyamoto, *Book of the Five Rings* \*
- Musashi Miyamoto, *Path Walked Alone*
- Musonius Rufus, *Fragments*

- ✓ (Herbert A.) Musurillo, *The Acts of the Pagan Martyrs: Acta Alexandrinorum* \*

This work edits and translates some remnants of documents of some people who seemingly killed themselves, or died, defending what they believed in when Rome attacked and conquered Alexandria. It is a bit hard to state precisely what the fragments are all about, since the author never directly presents them all in a continuous way; it feels more like “here’s some fragments edited and translated, now you figure out what to do with them.”



## 15- Section N

### ✓ Naevius, Fragments

Many fragments from his works seem to have reached us, but unfortunately they tend to be just one or two lines from each work, usually in order to illustrate the usage of a particular word. A few more verses are available for his epic poem on the First Punic War (which, apparently, he had participated in himself), which may have been Virgil's source for the myth of Aeneas and Dido, but this can only be inferred obliquely, since no exact fragment seems to attest to it in the edition I had access to.

### ✓ (Gregory) Nagy, *Aristarchus and the Epic Cycle*

On the textual changes to the Homeric Poems that Aristarchus once proposed, based on the fact that those words did not really come from Homer's time.

### ✓ (Gregory) Nagy, *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours*

I first learned about this book in an online course taught by its author. Although at times it can be a

discouraging experience due to its complexity, overall it features plenty of interesting information, organized via 24 keywords from primary sources, and attempts to teach the students via the analysis and context of those same keywords.

✓ (Gregory) Nagy, *The Best of the Achaeans* \*  
Analysing what constituted a hero in Archaic Greek Poetry, as its subtitle best informs us. It is a book of a more scholarly nature.

- (Andre) Nance, *Porphyry: The Man and his demons*

✓ Natalis Comes, *Mythology* \*  
Published in Europe in the middle of the XVI century, this work essentially recaps the most famous myths of Classical Antiquity and does so based, more often than not, in their original literary sources, even if some of them are a bit obscure. However, the author also adds to them some potential philosophical interpretations of some stories, which some readers appear to have considered positive, while others negative. An undoubted criticism, however, is the fact that the book

is significantly disorganized, with the connection between one subject and the one following it not always being very evident or natural. In spite of this flaw, the work can certainly be used to assess the most significant original literary sources for each of the myths it contains.

- ✓ (Anabela) Natário, *O Assassino do Aqueduto: A arrepiante história de Diogo Alves, o homem que aterrorizou Lisboa no século XIX*

A fictional story based on what is still known about Diogo Alves, best known in Portugal as the “Aqueduct Killer”. The author admittedly used the primary sources available to her, and it shows – in spite of the name, she never romanticizes the supposed episodes which only rumours attributed to the aqueduct.

- ✓ National Geographic, *Essential Visual History of World Mythology*

A succinct introduction to many systems of beliefs and mythologies from around the world, both from very long ago in the past and our own day and age. Most chapters are short, generally dedicating just one or two pages to each individual topic, but this book’s best

asset is certainly the fact it is richly presented with an almost endless number of drawings, photos and reproductions of images relevant to each of the topics at hand, which will certainly please readers – I definitely enjoyed them, despite the fact I was already familiarized with many of the myths it contains.

- ✓ Nefzawi, *The Perfumed Garden of Sensual Delight*

A XV century Arabic sex manual, with two aspects I feel are particularly worthy of mention – one of its chapters contains a succinct dream interpretation manual, and others present small stories to better illustrate some specific points and lessons.

- ✓ (Adélio Torres) Neiva, *Seminário da Torre da Aguilha: 50 anos ao serviço da Missão*

An introduction to the creation and short history of this place near Oeiras, Portugal.

- ✓ Nemesius, *On the nature of man*

This text attempts to conciliate older Philosophy with the ideas of Christianity, its author being an adept of the new religion.

- ✓ (Rui Vieira) Nery, *Para uma História do Fado: Edição Revista e Aumentada* \*

A fairly recent work on the history of the Portuguese “fado”, from its supposed origins to our day and age. It is noteworthy for how deep it tries to approach the subject.

- (Aida Maria Martins) Neves, *Cultura Imaterial e Activação do Património no Concelho do Entroncamento*

- ✓ (Henry) Neville, *The Isle of Pines*

The central idea of this work is the story of a man who got lost at sea, came into an island, and had to live there until he died. Other travellers later come across the same island, and it is them who tell the story of the original man, and how the local society evolved across time, until the new travellers intervened and, apparently, solved some of the local problems.

- ✓ (Jess) Nevins, *The Evolution of the Costumed Avenger: The 4,000-Year History of the Superhero* \*

I read this book as I was attempting to explore the relationship between ancient heroes and gods and modern superheroes. Although it does present some significant cultural ancestors for our idea of superheroes, overall the work seems to be a very biased one, in the sense that the author sees just what he wants to see, at some points plainly ignoring what does not fit his needs, such as when he refuses to acknowledge the existence of “superpowers” in ancient mythological characters, or the presence of very significant elements in medieval myths and legends (such as Melusine’s), which may have secondarily impacted the depiction of our superheroes.

✓ (Isaac) Newton, *The Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms Amended*

Written by *that* Isaac Newton, this is one of those books that often makes you say “wow, *now* I’ve seen everything”. Why? Well, the author here argues that some chronologies of the past are mostly incorrect, and then attempts to fix them in various ways. Among other things, he argues that some figures from Greek Mythology actually had a real existence as part of historical factuality. That specific idea isn’t new – the

Christian apologists frequently used it based on the work of Euhemerus – but, at the same time, it is somewhat unusual to see such an eminent mind recurring to arguments such as these.

- ✓ (Joe) Nickell, *Real Life X-Files: Investigating the Paranormal* \*

A collection of brief investigations about paranormal cases by the author, who takes a sceptical approach to the whole subject. I found the work to be well written and informative, even if some chapters are, in my personal opinion, not very interesting.

- ✓ (Joe) Nickell, *Secrets of the Sideshows*

This work presents what sideshows are – or “used to be”, perhaps to be more accurate? – and introduces, chapter after chapter, their most significant exhibitions. It is quite an interesting introduction to the whole subject, and the author also provides at least some basic information on freak shows and other related areas of the subject. The work even has a very nice selection of images related to the subject all through!

- ✓ (Joe) Nickell, *The Mystery Chronicles: More Real-Life X-Files* \*

A sequel to one of the books above, this presents a few more paranormal cases that the author investigates. As before, some are intriguing, while others are – in my opinion – far from interesting.

- ✓ (Donald M.) Nicol, *The Immortal Emperor – The life and legend of Constantine Palaiologos, last Emperor of the Romans*

Essentially, this book reports, almost as a novel, the entire life of the last Byzantine Emperor, from before he was born up to his assumed death in a final battle to defend Constantinople, but also the many legendary episodes which were derived thereafter.

- ✓ Nicolau de Langres, *Desenhos e plantas de todas as praças do Reyno de Portugal* \*

As the title itself says, this book produced in the mid XVII century features both drawings and maps of the fortresses from Portugal which existed at the time. If nothing else, it allows readers to see how things may have changed across the centuries, to the point I've even seen said representations from this work



presented in local fortresses today.

✓ Nicolaus of Damascus, *Life of Augustus*

Extant in two significant fragments, the first about the early life and teen years of Augustus, and a second about Caesar's assassination and many events connected to it. It is perhaps for the extensive information preserved in the latter that the extant chapters are worth reading.

✓ (Andrea) Nicolotti, *The Shroud of Turin: The History and Legends of the World's Most Famous Relic* \*

Quite an interesting work, in which the author tells us (almost) the complete history of the Shroud of Turin and all the scholarship behind it. He talks about the history, myths and legends involving this relic, but this work's most noteworthy aspect is certainly the fact that it goes very deep into the whole subject, perhaps even becoming a bit too boring for regular readers. But, if the subject at hand interests you in any way, this work essentially presents everything you would ever want to know about it, barring what is impossible to find out right now.

- ✓ Nicomachus of Gerasa, *Introduction to Arithmetic* \*

A manual of elementary Arithmetic. Although it does not contain any mythological references, it features a few philosophical sections here and there.

- ✓ Nivardus, *Ysengrimus*

A lesser-known medieval work of stories related to the fox Reynard, which is essentially both a prequel and sequel to the French *Chanson*. Here, the fox's opponent, Ysengrim, is the focus of the stories, but not necessarily the hero or main character.

- ✓ (Larry) Niven, *Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex*

An unusual article about the physical limitations that a sexual relationship between Clark Kent and Lois Lane would have to face. Evidently satirical, but pleasing to think about nonetheless.

- ✓ (Catherine) Nixey, *The Darkening Age: The Christian Destruction of the Classical World*

This is quite a work on how Christianity destroyed the culture of the Antiquity before the beginning of the

Middle Ages. The author presents a ton of information that most readers would probably be unfamiliar with, and the work even features many significant images at the end. Overall, I felt it does not present an order that is easy to follow by readers, and in spite of all the interesting information it contains, such lack of a predictable order makes it less enjoyable.

- ✓ (Mary F.) Nixon-Roulet, *Japanese Folk Stories and Fairy Tales* \*

Unfortunately, the stories from Japan presented in this work have been extensively adapted from their old originals, making them a lot less interesting than they originally were.

- ✓ (Carlos) Nogueira, *A lenda de Pedro Sem: da oralidade à poesia romântica*

About how different authors from Portugal and Brazil dealt with the exact same topic, the legend of "Pedro Sem".

- ✓ Nonius Marcellus, *De compendiosa doctrina* \*

Essentially an unordered dictionary of Latin, but particularly important from the fact that each entry

and its definition are explained with quotes from ancient authors, some of them whose original works have now been lost. For example, *tempestas* is defined as a powerful wind, and its usage is attested by examples from Virgil, Sallustius, Lucillius, Pacuvius, Cicero and Varro.

✓      Nonnus, *Dionysiaca*

This epic poem on the adventures of the god Dionysus is the biggest of the genre which survived from the Antiquity, albeit with some brief passages lost here and there. It is an amusing text, although I was never too sure if the more laughable elements were supposed to be so or were only understood as such by modern audiences. Either way, it seems that very little people tend to actually read it, which is a huge shame as it features many sequences which undoubtedly deserved to be read and studied way more often.

✓      (Pseudo-)Nonnus, *Mythological Scholia*

This unusual work essentially grabs four of those from Gregory of Nazianzus and comments on the mythological references presented in them. Essentially, this author retells some of the original myths in a very

brief way, and sometimes also provides an equally short commentary on them. There is nothing too unusual here, but here and there this author, whoever he was, does provide some elements about famous myths that are not presented elsewhere; at first I supposed he was simply making up his information, but at least in some cases he does provide content which appears to fill in the gaps of our myths in a very satisfactory way.

✓      Nostradamus, *Les Prophéties*      \*

A very famous collection of prophecies for events which would supposedly take place until the year 3797. But, since nobody knows the correct way to interpret them, reading this is just a complete waste of time, unless you want to waste your life saying that the quatrain so-and-so is totally a prediction of an event which already took place in the past.

✓      Notker the Stammerer, *The Deeds of Charlemagne*

A collection of random deeds attributed to Charlemagne and some of his successors, which seemingly follow no set order. Unless you are looking

for very specific information on some specific episode of his life, this work is far from interesting.

- ✓ (Nicolas) Notovitch, *La vie inconnue de Jesus Christ*

As a travel book from the end of the XIX century, this work would today be mostly irrelevant if it wasn't for the fact that in his travels the author supposedly had access to a mysterious manuscript from India which detailed the early life of Issa, aka. Jesus, in that region. Whether it is a real account or a forgery remains unknown, since it seems that nobody else ever saw the document with their own eyes, but the text is definitely intriguing, in the sense that whoever wrote it made some very significant changes to the plot, such as Pilate – and not the Jews – being responsible for Jesus' death.

- ✓ (Maria Manuela N. C.) Nova, *As lendas do sobrenatural da região do Algarve* \*

A Portuguese PhD thesis on supernatural legends from the Algarve. Although the second volume contains the text for many legends, some of them even previously unreported, the first one studies those same

resources, making them both quite valuable for those interested in the topic.

- ✓ (Kiyoshi) Nozaki, *Kitsune: Japan's Fox of Mystery, Romance & Humor*

Although not entirely scholarly, this work presents the many faces of the “kitsune”, or fox, in Japan. The author briefly presents them in each chapter, and then proceeds to report some stories related to them, even if such a presentation is made in a brief, and often overly uninformative, way.





## 16- Section O

- ✓ (Robert C.) O'Brien, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

The inspiration behind *The Secret of NIMH* animated movie, this novel clearly isn't as scary, but I would not generally consider it as a work for kids, since it portrays fairly well how rats are handled and used in research labs. Nonetheless, it is an unusual novel, that certainly has to be admitted.

- ✓ (D'Arcy) O'Connor, *The Secret Treasure of Oak Island*

This work recaps the essential story of Oak Island, and does so from an unbiased standpoint, meaning, if it mentions some of the stranger theories regarding the whole place and its supposed treasure, it does so with a critical view. It is definitely a good book if a reader is looking for an overview of the whole subject.

- ✓ (Hugh) O'Donoghue, *Urban Legends in Ireland*

A simple compilation of urban legends from the aforementioned country, each usually described in less

than one page of text. It is unknown when they were collected, which is an important piece of information when it comes down to this kind of content.

- ✓ (James J.) O'Hara, *A Lost, Possibly Catullan-Era, Elegy on the Six Sex Changes of Tiresias*

The myth of Tiresias' two sex changes is widely known across Antiquity, but this research article provides information on a "lost" work which potentially featured the same figure going through *six* changes of sex.

- ✓ (John W.) O'Malley, *A History of the Popes: From Peter to the Present*

This history of the popes is very detailed for the more recent ones, but it says frustratingly little about the older ones. The author naturally devotes several pages to Peter, but then significantly (almost) ignores the ones after him. At the same time, he writes many pages about the ones from the modern era. Yes, this seems like a history of the popes, but it is perhaps best indicated for those who are looking for information on the more recent ones, instead of looking for a full history of the popes that dedicates significant time to each single one of them. I was a bit

disappointed.

✓ (Maria) O'Neill, *O Paraíso das Crianças*

From the early XX century, this is a book of stories for children, most of them connected through a main plot, while the last is just a stand-alone one. Three mythological stories from the Antiquity are briefly retold here – the rape of Proserpina, Echo's and Narcissus' – but in an incomplete form, naturally adapted for children.

✓ (A. J.) O'Reilly, *The Martyrs of the Colosseum: Historical Records of the Great Amphitheatre of Ancient Rome* \*

Supposedly presenting the identities of the martyrs who died in the Colosseum, this book repeatedly presents more fiction than fact, with the author telling us what could have happened, instead of what facts show us. This is particularly clear in the chapter on the very first martyr, where huge leaps of reasoning are made to establish his identity, and even further argue he was literally the architect of the Colosseum himself. So, of course all the information presented here has to be taken with a huge grain of salt.

- ✓ (Jennifer Cook) O'Toole, *The Asperkid's Secret Book of Social Rules*

Clearly written for kids and teens who have Asperger's Syndrome, this book reveals many of the societal rules they may not be familiar with. What makes it particularly noteworthy for this listing, though, is the fact that the author also occasionally shares how she came across said rules, with some of those stories being amusing.

- ✓ (Steven M.) Oberhelman, *Dreambooks in Byzantium: Six Oneirocritica in Translation, with Commentary and Introduction* \*

The author starts by introducing the subject of dream interpretation books and follows through by translating and commenting six of those books composed in the Byzantine Empire. His translation also tries to explain the reasoning behind the dream interpretations, which is a bit unusual but certainly adds some additional interest to this work.

- ✓ Obsequens, *Book of Prodigies*

A compilation of prodigies that occurred in the Roman

Empire before the beginning of our era, essentially extracted from the work of Livy.

- ✓ (J. W.) Ocker, *Cult Following: The Extreme Sects That Capture Our Imaginations - and Take Over Our Lives*

This easy-to-read book presents, in a succinct way, some of the most famous cults from around the world. The author writes about their origin, evolution, and what eventually became of them, and he also does so in a way that is occasionally funny, making it easier to keep on reading page after page.

- ✓ (J. W.) Ocker, *Cursed Objects: Strange but True Stories of the World's Most Infamous Items*

In this book, the author presents brief stories of supposedly cursed objects from around the world, along with similar topics. Said stories are usually short, but intriguing enough to be worth reading; plus, there is some bibliography at the end, in case you want to learn more about each particular subject. Overall, it is worth a read if you are interested in these topics.

- ✓ (J. W.) Ocker, *The United States of Cryptids: A*

*Tour of American Myths and Monsters* \*

Basically a presentation of the most significant cryptids in the USA, with a fairly long introduction for each of them. Strangely, the book includes painted drawings of some, but not all, the creatures portrayed, with the art style seemingly indicating this may perhaps be a book for younger audiences.

✓ "Odin", *Hávamál*

Traditionally attributed to the god Odin, this work is a compilation of advice presented in very brief paragraphs. It is perhaps worth noting most of them still apply today.

✓ (Jason) Offutt, *Chasing American Monsters* \*

Perhaps useful as an introductory book, the author goes through 50 states from the US and briefly presents the monsters of each one. His reports are not very detailed, more often than not they're just one or two pages long, but the book features at least one drawing per chapter.

✓ (Daniel) Ogden, *Dragons, Serpents and Slayers in the Classical and Early Christian Worlds*

A compilation of extracts from Ancient and Early Christian texts that mention dragons and dragon-like figures (e.g. Medusa), some of which are significantly obscure. For each extract, the author also provides some personal commentary.

- ✓ (Daniel) Ogden, *Magic, Witchcraft, and Ghosts in the Greek and Roman Worlds: A Source Book*

A compilation of those elements as present in several works of Greek and Roman origin. It provides, essentially, room for further exploration of the topic through sources that most people may not know yet.

- ✓ (Tom) Ogden, *Haunted Highways: Spooky Stories, Strange Happenings, and Supernatural Sightings* \*

A compilation of what may be urban myths from the US retold by the author. I did not particularly enjoy the book, but it can be noted for the unusual fact that it contains a reference to some of the places in which the stories supposedly take place in the annexes at the end of the book.

- ✓ (Henry S.) Olcott, *A Buddhist Catechism*

This book presents in a very simple, question-and-answer scheme, the essential doctrines of Buddhism, and it appears to have been written with people who know nothing about that religion in mind. Overall, I found that it explains their beliefs in a keen and very accurate way.

✓ (Henry S.) Olcott, *People from the Other World*\*

This book most of all reports his personal experience with the Eddy Brothers, mediums from his own time. He also has a chapter on Katie King, and another on the Compton Transfiguration. Through these three main subjects, the author's posture seems to vary between belief and subtle scepticism, perhaps even more of the former than the latter. The work also mentions how he first met Helena Blavatsky, with whom he would later co-found Theosophy.

✓ (António Corrêa d') Oliveira, *História pequenina de Portugal gigante*

Published in 1940 (if memory serves me right), this is a collection of some poems by the author which are related to Portuguese history. It seems to have been fairly popular at the time. The author also includes



some poems on that year's Exhibition of the Portuguese World, which may be important for historical context.

- ✓ (Ernesto Veiga de) Oliveira, *Festividades Cíclicas em Portugal* \*

About recurring holidays in Portugal, with the author trying to research what originally happened in each of them, seemingly at a time when they were mostly disappearing. The work also has some notable photos here and there.

- ✓ (Francisco) Oliveira, *Europatrida* \*

As its synopsis says, this volume can best be described as bringing "together contributions from authors from sixteen European countries who seek their roots in the classical Greek heritage and especially in literary or epigraphic texts written in ancient Greek, Byzantine, Renaissance or later eras". However, the content of the work between these 16 authors is very inconsistent, with some focusing more on references to their countries in Classical works, while others seem to talk more about the influence of Classical authors in the culture of their respective countries; this inconsistency

also goes as far as a few authors providing translations to the Greek texts, while others don't.

✓ (Sadat) Oliveira, *História e Simbologia do Tarô* \*  
 Supposedly, this should be a book on the history of tarot and an attempt to explain the symbology behind its cards. Instead, it is a bad book which casually jumps from one topic to another; confuses fact, fiction, history and legend; misleads readers; uses quotes just for the sake of it; leaves endless elements unexplained; and repeatedly underdelivers in any of the areas it proposes. Avoid it.

✓ (Sadat) Oliveira, *Mitologia Medieval: Bestiários, Animais fantásticos da Idade Média* \*  
 A very simple and clearly introductory book in portuguese about the characteristics of animals in medieval bestiaries. All information presented in it should, in my view, be read with a huge grain of salt, since I found some errors here and there.

✓ (Joaquim Pedro de) Oliveira Martins, *História de Portugal* \*

With a first edition in 1879, and many subsequent

editions (I counted at least 10 different ones), this is a rather unusual, and even uncommonly informal, history of Portugal. It is best read if you're already very familiar with the topic, since the author adds a lot of information to the usual events. At the end a reader is left wondering how much of it is actually real, since in some aspects of his work, it is very hard to distinguish between fact and fiction. At least it is all written in a very simple and pleasing way.

✓ (Harry) Oliver, *Black Cats & Four-Leaf Clovers*  
 Supposedly this would have been a book on the origin of multiple superstitions from western society, but instead the author just very briefly talks about each of them and almost always provides his own theory on their origins. And that's perfectly okay, sure, but when it is all theories, no verifiable facts and no textual sources at all, their guesses are as good as anyone else's, and that disappointed me, as I was expecting a book supported by evidence.

✓ (Peter) Opie, *The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren* \*

From the mid XX century, this work preserves many

UK child types of play related to works, sayings, etc. The authors evaluate the whole thing in a detailed and interesting way.

✓ Oppian, *Cynegetica*

A treatise on the art of hunting.

✓ Oppian, *Halieutica*

A similar one, but focusing on fishing. They both contain some mythological references.

✓ (Nelly Elena Vargas) Orellana de Gauffin, *El Duende: Tradicion Literaria y Proyeccion Folklorica*

This research article briefly recaps what we still know about the iberian “duende” and presents some references to it in literary sources from Spain.

✓ Origen, *Contra Celsum*

An apology of Christianity or, to be way more accurate, a treatise against a specific opponent of that religion, Celsus. What is so important about this particular work is that it quotes extensively from Celsus’ own, therefore accidentally preserving many of that author’s

arguments against the same religion Origen was now trying to defend.

✓ Orosius, *Historiae Adversus Paganos*

Seemingly written in what is now the Iberian Peninsula, this is an historical account focusing also on attacking the pagans, in a way similar to Augustine's own *City of God*.

✓ (John) Ortved, *Simpsons Confidential*

A book on the history of the Simpsons, with plenty of quotes and significant insider information, but sometimes gets a bit boring via the way in which it approaches the whole subject, quoting too often instead of providing a continuous story.

✓ (George) Orwell, *1984*

A novel about a dystopian future which is particularly thought-provoking, not only due to some resemblances with our current day and age, but also because it raises very significant points on human freedom and how governments are allowed to manipulate particular aspects of people's lives.

- ✓ (George) Orwell, *Animal Farm* \*

A satirical work in which farm animals overthrow their farmer and try to develop their own government, only for things to end perhaps even worse than they initially were. The general idea goes all the way back to the Antiquity, but is here used with the intent of criticizing the political environment of the time.

- ✓ (Brooks) Otis, *The Argumenta of the So-Called Lactantius*

Although the author does tell us a lot about the *Arguments* attributed to one Lactantius Placidus, he does not present them in full or translate them, unlike I expected to find here.

- ✓ (Alexander F.) Otto, *Mythological Japan, or The Symbolisms of Mythology in Relation to Japanese Art*

Despite not being very long – roughly 100 pages – this quaint work presents the main mythological topics of traditional art from Japan, and even retells some of the stories behind them. I found the final section particularly informative, in which the author presents the seven lucky gods of the country.

✓ Ovid, *Amores*

A compilation of three books of love poetry, in which the poet also repeatedly mentions the woman was seemingly his muse, one Corinna.

✓ Ovid, *Ars Amatoria*

If you have ever wanted to learn how to cause someone else to love you, this is essentially the book for you, as many of the poet's tips still seem to work in our own day and age; for that reason, it is a work I often advise young men and women to read.

Composed by two books on advice for men and a third one for women, the biggest question one has to ask is whether the author really believed on what he was writing here or if the work is essentially satirical; I myself always assumed the former possibility, but some authors do seem to agree with the latter.

As some of the other works by Ovid, this was very influential in the Middle Ages, with one of Marie de France's *Lais* even openly criticising the idea of love as presented here.

✓ Ovid, *Epistolae Ex Ponto*

Epistles written while in exile, particularly famous for preserving the fact that Ovid was exiled due to “a poem and a mistake”. Some of the information contained here seems to point to the poem being the *Ars Amatoria*, but what his “mistake” was ends up being a much more arguable point.

✓ Ovid, *Fasti*

Unfortunately incomplete after the first six books/months, this work was seeking to cover the entire Roman year and presenting the origin and customs of all the yearly festivals.

✓ Ovid, *Heroides*

Epistles written by some mythological figures to others related to them. Sometimes you only have one side of the story, but in others – the so-called “double Heroides” – you actually get to read some kind of answer back from them.

✓ Ovid, *Ibis*

An unusual poem alike of a magical spell, in which Ovid attempts to curse an enemy. Contains several mythological references.



✓ Ovid, *Medea* (f)

According to Quintilian a *Medea* was actually Ovid's very best work, but it seems to be lost barring the exception of two or three small fragments.

✓ Ovid, *Metamorphoses*

Arguably the most famous of all this author's works, this is a continuous work on Latin Myths, stitching together all the stories instead of simply presenting many independent sections with different stories. They're essentially myths featuring some kind of transformation, even when the original ones did not contain such an element (e.g. the death of Ajax). It is a very important work, influential in the Middle Ages and even beyond, through adapted works such as *Ovide Moralisé*.

✓ Ovid, *Remedia Amoris*

In case you've loved and you've now stopped loving (or being loved), in this work the author teaches you how to break up a relationship or find consolation. It is sort of a sequel to the *Ars Amatoria*.

✓ Ovid, *Tristia*

Five books of poems written by Ovid while in exile.

✓ Ovid, *Women's Facial Cosmetics*

Defending the usage of cosmetics by women, and also providing a very limited number of recipes on how to create some.

✓ (Yei Theodora) Ozaki, *Buddha's Crystal and Other Fairy Stories*

Seemingly the fourth book by Ozaki (see below), this one contains a few stories from Japan which feature fantastical and magical elements. Although this book seems shorter than the others, personally I did enjoy it a lot more, perhaps because the spirit of these stories is easier to capture and understand even by readers from completely different cultures.

✓ (Yei Theodora) Ozaki, *Japanese Fairy Tales*

A short compilation of tales coming from Japan. They're pleasant to read and fit for all audiences, but, unfortunately, they also feature no explanatory commentaries at all.

✓ (Yei Theodora) Ozaki, *Romances of Old Japan*  
 Apparently the third book by Ozaki, this one contains “romances” from Japan. Since such a genre is not easy to define, perhaps it is best to present these stories as longer and overall related to love (although there are some exceptions). Some of them are undoubtedly a bit strange by western standards, such as *Tsubosaka's*, in which a couple is brought back to life once they both killed themselves (what kind of lesson does that even teach to the readers?!).

✓ (Yei Theodora) Ozaki, *Warriors of Old Japan, and Other Stories*

Almost a sequel to *Japanese Fairy Tales*, this work features stories more focused on warriors and what could be loosely defined as the upper classes of Japan. As the previous one, it also contains no commentaries at all.



## 17- Section P

✓ P. L. Travers, *Mary Poppins* \*

I knew about this heroine from the Disney movie, and so I was curious about the books. Although this first one seems a bit funny here and there, ultimately I did not really find the adventure as amusing as one would expect from the movie.

✓ (Saint) Pacian, *Epistles to Sympronian*

These three epistles focus essentially on the controversy against Novatianism. Although there are here a few secondary references to myths and pagan authors, overall they focus on the relationship between Catholic Christianity and the ideas of the aforementioned sect.

- (Saint) Pacian, *Exhortation to Repentance*
- (Saint) Pacian, *On Baptism*

✓ Pacuvius, Fragments

Hundreds of small fragments of Pacuvius' tragedies seem to have reached us. They're generally very short

– typically only a phrase or two – but in some cases they do allow us to get some access to the plot of the original plays; for example, the remains of his play on the death of Odysseus appear to be one of the few extant sources of information for that specific mythological episode.

- (E.) Pagels, *Adam, Eve and the Serpent*

✓ (E.) Pagels, *Gnostic Gospels*

If you want to learn more about Gnosticism and its literary productions, this is *THE* work you should be seeking to read. I myself used it to start my own exploration of gnostic literature, and it provides many references which can be used for further exploration, apart from explaining, in a very simple and succinct way, many things you need to know about the subject at hand.

- ✓ (E.) Pagels, *The Gospel of Judas and the shaping of Christianity*

Evidently written on the subject of the Gospel of Judas; it contains much background information about it, together with a translation of the original text.

✓ (E.) Pagels, *The Origin of Satan*

This book's title must be taken with a significant grain of salt, in the sense that it's not about the figure of Satan in itself, but about the idea behind it, and how a figure like it was crucially needed in Judaism and Christianity. The author defends that idea in an effective and convincing way.

✓ (E.) Pagels, *Why Religion?: A Personal Story*

A wonderful book, which intertwines autobiography with an exploration of religiosity and the aspects that led to Pagels' own beliefs across the years. It spoke profoundly to me, likely because of the way in which I could perfectly identify with some of the situations the author mentions having passed through.

✓ (Anant) Pai, *Buddhist Stories, 5-in-1*

A collection of five stories in comic book form, all of them related to Buddhism. The first one is possibly the most notable, as it features the story of Buddha himself, while the remaining ones are stories of conversion to that religion, including the seemingly famous ones of Angulimala and Amrapali, among a few

others.

- ✓ (Anant) Pai, *Ganesha: The Remover of All Obstacles*

This comic book presents the origin story of Ganesha, ending shortly after the moment in which he obtains his famous elephant head.

- ✓ Palaephatus, *On Incredible Tales*

An essential work of paradoxography, extensively used by authors such as John Tzetzes. Essentially, it retells some classical myths and complements them with allegorical explanations, i.e. the centaurs were men riding horses, Hecuba “turned” into a dog because she seemingly barked in her extreme grief, etc.

- ✓ (F. A.) Paley, *Greek Wit: A Collection of Smart Sayings and Anecdotes Translated from Greek Prose Writers* \*

This work, composed of two volumes in the edition I had access to, basically contains short stories collected from a small minority of books from the Antiquity. Some are inspiring, others are funny, a few will make you think about them, etc.



✓ (Massimo) Pallottino, *The Etruscans* \*

This work, which was edited and re-edited multiple times across the years, each new version seemingly adding updated content, is basically an extended introduction on everything we still know about the Etruscan civilization. It is a very good introduction to the whole subject, even if sometimes it may seem too advanced for a casual reader; if nothing else, they are at least advised to have extended knowledge of Latin culture and literature, or most of the content the book presents won't be properly understood.

✓ (Alex) Palmer, *The Atlas of Christmas* \*

This work talks about all sorts of Christmas traditions from all over the world. It is completely random, seems to follow no evident order for the countries it reports on, and even contains some misleading information. If all that is not bad enough yet, if you want to know more about one specific tradition, the authors provide no real bibliography associated with each article, which is generally already short in itself. So, you definitely may be able to learn about many worldwide traditions here, but I'd certainly take all the

information contained here with a significant grain of salt.

✓ Pamela Anderson, *Love, Pamela*

This biography starts slow and interesting, but becomes way too quick and boring as soon as she begins her professional career, when it should have certainly been the other way around. Also, the book contains occasional poems, but they're not good at all, either.

✓ (Guido) Panciroli, *Rerum memorabilium, iam olim deperditarum*

Published in the XVI century, this work is notable for preserving some aspects of past knowledge which had been lost by then. The author summarily presents said lost elements – like “Greek Fire”, or large amphitheatres, etc. – and then extensively supports his text with proper authorities from the Antiquity.

✓ (E.) Panofsky, *Pandora's Box: The Changing Aspects of a Mythical Symbol* \*

On the evolution of the symbol of Pandora's Box, presenting it from the Antiquity up to much more

recent days.

- ✓ (Wil G.) Pansters, *La Santa Muerte in Mexico: History, Devotion & Society* \*

A collection of research papers on the “Santa Muerte” from Mexico, the most interesting of which is, in my personal opinion, an attempt to probe its cultural origins.

- ✓ Pantaleão Froilaz, *Maria Coroadá, ou o Scisma da Granja do Tédo*

A rare work from the XIX century, it preserves for us the complete story of Maria Coroadá, responsible for a brief, and apparently small, local schism from the Catholic Church. The work retells the whole story, also mentions in brief another famous story from the time – the one of the “Homem-Mulher” – and, perhaps most important of all, it quotes some of Coroadá’s beliefs, and even presents some of the spells which she used for her cures later in her life.

- ✓ (M.) Papathomopoulos, *Le retour de Plisténe. Disparition et réapparition d'un personnage mythologique*

On the myth of Pleisthenes, one of the family members of Agamemnon and Menelaus, who seems to have a very convoluted history behind it. Ultimately the author is unable to find out what really happened to the hero, but his findings are definitely intriguing.

- ✓ (Nelson) Papavero, *A Estranha História da Cobra Narrada na 'Relaçam (...)'* - Uma Obra Portuguesa sobre Herpetologia \*

An article mostly focused on an attempt to identify the snake from a seemingly legendary tale from Lisbon, Portugal. However, its most notorious aspect is that it contains a facsimile of a crucial document from the year 1743, the *Relaçam prodigioza da navegaçam da nao chamada S. Pedro, e S. Joam da Companhia de Macau*, which otherwise is not easy to find.

- ✓ (Zilia) Papp, *Anime and its Roots in Early Japanese Monster Art*

The title explains fairly well what this book is all about, but the focuses essentially on yokai and how they influenced the anime and manga titled *GeGeGe no Kitaro*. One of the most interesting chapters of this work is arguably the one in which the depiction of the

yokai in the series is compared and contrasted, via images, with their traditional versions from local art.

- ✓ (Zilia) Papp, *Traditional Monster Imagery in Manga, Anime and Japanese Cinema*

The idea behind this book seems like quite an interesting one, at first, but when you get to read it you'll soon see the scope is a lot more limited, as the author focuses too much in some specific parts (e.g. *GeGeGe no Kitaro*), and too little in others (e.g. Ultraman or sentai). Although, overall, the book is still interesting, its topic is definitely not as broad as the title makes people believe.

- ✓ Paracelsus, *Ex Libro de Nymphis, Sylvanis, Pygmaeis, Salamandris et Gigantibus*

This work was not easy to obtain, but it seems to be the first literary mention to Gnomes, Salamanders, Sylphs and Undines as mystical beings. The author gives a basic overview of the whole concept and of each individual being, but what is particularly noticeable about his lines is the fact that he seems to be aware of a previous mythology surrounding each of them. Maybe he was the first one to systematize these

ideas, potentially coming from oral sources, or he was just making everything up? It is not easy to conclude anything about the subject, but this work is clearly a must-have for those interested in the origins of those mystical beings.

✓ Paradoxographus Florentinus, *Mirabilia de Aquis*  
Preserving lots of water-related miracles coming from a wide variety of authors, many of which are now lost.

• Paradoxographus Palatinus, *Admiranda* \*

✓ (Alexandre) Parafita, *Histórias de Arte e Manhas: Contos e Lendas de tradição oral*

Undoubtedly for kids, with a lot of figures, a compilation of less than 10 traditional stories from Portugal gathered from oral sources. Unexpectedly, in the final page the author even tells us who those sources were.

✓ Parashara, *Vishnu Purana* \*

This is not an easy book to sum-up. It is a medieval indian text related to the god Vishnu, but each of its six books contains a different subject. In the context of

myths, the first, fourth, fifth and sixth books are specially important – they focus respectively on cosmology, dynasties of the past, Krishna (one of the avatars of Vishnu), and the end of the world.

✓ (Ambroise) Paré, *On Monsters and Marvels* \*  
 Compiled in the XVI century, this book is essentially a collection of what previous authors reported on a wide variety of subjects related to monsters and strange creatures. It is sometimes a bit random on the way it jumps from topic to topic, even back and forth, but it undoubtedly has a ton of beautiful engravings and unexpected stories at any page.

✓ (Tudor) Parfitt, *The Lost Ark of the Covenant: Solving the 2500 Year Old Mystery of the Fabled Biblical Ark* \*

This book is known for arguing that a slightly-changed version of the Ark of the Covenant is currently in Zimbabwe. I decided to read it to know more about that hypothesis, only to note it reads more as a novel – and not a very good one – than as a scholarly work. It seems to rely more on wishful thinking and legends than it does about reality, and eventually I decided to

just put it down in disappointment.

- ✓ (James Robert) Parish, *Fiasco: A History of Hollywood's Iconic Flops*

Overall, this book talks about a few of Hollywood's big budget movies and explains why they ended up failing. The concept is an interesting one, but I felt the work sometimes focused too much on some background elements, such as the personal story of the main players, instead of going step by step through what ended up causing all the films' problems.

- ✓ Parthenius, *Of the Sorrows of Love*

Containing slightly over 30 succinct love stories, which the author put down in writing in order to provide material for a friend's poetry.

- ✓ Pat Patterson, *Accepted: How the First Gay Superstar Changed WWE*

This book is worth mentioning mostly because of the distinction between perceived reality and how the world really is. It's the story of a wrestler who happened to be gay, but how that aspect of his being ended up being not such a big deal at the hand, unlike



one could suppose.

- ✓ (Raphael) Patai, *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore and Traditions* \*

The title easily explains what this one book is all about, but what makes it particularly worth mentioning is the fact it explains most of its topics very well, allowing you to understand them even if you know nothing about them yet.

- ✓ (Raphael) Patai, *The Hebrew Goddess* \*

On the female figures, arguably “deities”, which can be associated with God and Judaism. The book introduces many of them, which rose and disappeared across the centuries, but it should be noted the author doesn’t always provide the complete information, and some of his arguments may ultimately be seen as fairly incomplete.

- ✓ Patanjali, *The Yoga Sutras*

Probably from the first centuries of our era, this is an Indian compilation of aphorisms related to the subject of yoga. If you know nothing about it yet, chances are you won’t learn it here either, since these are simply

small aphorisms which, in themselves, aren't ever too informative about the subject.

✓ (Saint) Patrick, *Confession*

In this autobiographical work the famous Saint Patrick wrote about some of the events he went through in his life. In theory this could seem like a very interesting work, given the many legends which eventually appeared about him, but instead it is a confusing and seldom informative book, which just preserves, here and there, some bits of Patrick's biographical information.

✓ (Devdutt) Pattanaik, *Jaya: An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata*

This work's title says exactly what it is. The illustrations are not very interesting, in my personal opinion, but each chapter is complemented with some final notes on the episodes at hand, sometimes explaining them a bit, and others reporting additional versions of the stories. That, and the fact this work resumes a massive and famous epic poem, certainly deserves to be noted.

- ✓ (Devdutt) Pattanaik, *Olympus: An Indian Retelling of the Greek Myths*

This book retells many Greek Myths in a very simple and short way. However, what makes it specially worth mentioning is the fact that each myth is pictured with a drawing in indian style and presented with some parallelisms with myths from India. The latter aren't always very interesting in the comparisons established, but at least it allows readers from India, not familiar with european myths, to better understand the stories the author presents.

- ✓ (Vicente) Paulino, *As lendas de Timor e a literatura oral timorense*

This research paper essentially presents the main written sources for myths and legends from the island of Timor.

- Paulinus of Pella, *Eucharisticos*

- ✓ (Gary) Paulsen, *Hatchet*

Seemingly read in school in Canada, this is the story of a young kid who survives a plane crash and has to live in the wilderness with the titular hatchet. It doesn't

have a very complex plot, but it does seem to portray in a realistic way the troubles and tribulations of living in the wild.

- ✓ (Albert) Pauphilet, *Poètes et Romanciers du Moyen Age*

A wonderful compilation of Middle Age literature, with the essential issue being that most texts, if not all, are still written in the original languages.

- ✓ Pausanias, *Description of Greece*

While travelling across Greece, Pausanias seemingly jotted down everything he saw, and here he provides a lot of information on the places he went to (in fact, this book is frequently used to help identify archaeological findings). It is a very important composition, based on the fact that it contains unique information of a geographical and touristic nature, almost as if you were visiting Ancient Greece and had purchased a tourist handbook containing all the monuments, the essential mythological information behind them, etc.

- (Louis) Pauwels, *Le Matin des Magiciens*

- ✓ Pedro Afonso, *Livro das Linhagens do Conde D. Pedro*

Essentially a book on the genealogy of the main families from Portugal, up to the middle of the XIV century. It starts with the creation of the world, goes on to talk, very succinctly, about the main events of Europe, and then focuses more intensely on the marriages and offspring from the main portuguese families. It infrequently even retells some legends directly associated with them.

- ✓ Pedro de la Floresta, *La Historia de los muy nobles y valientes cavalleros Oliveros de Castilla, y Artus de Algarve*

A mediocre chivalry romance from the XVIII century Spain, with close to no redeeming qualities.

- ✓ Pedro de Mariz, *Ao Estudioso da Lição Poética*

The oldest extant biography of the poet Camões, once included in an edition of his poems. It does not include a chronological reports on the events of the poet's life, but it does feature some biographical information in an almost random way.

- ✓ Pedro de Mariz, *História Admirável do Sanctissimo Milagre de Sanctarem* \*

From the early XVII century, this work extensively details a miracle which supposedly took place in the village of Santarém, in Portugal, in the XIII and XIV centuries. The author tells is story, retells its old version based on Latin sources he found on location, investigated the miraculous elements by himself, and also talks about other similar occurrences here.

- ✓ (Curtis) Peebles, *Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth*

This work can be briefly described as a history of the myths we generally associate with UFOs and Aliens. It is written in a simple way and provides a good introduction to the whole subject, portraying it from its beginning up to the end of the XX century. However, it also seems to focus too much on the US, with very occasional and short references to famous cases from other countries.

- ✓ (Irene) Peirano, *The Rhetoric of the Roman Fake: Latin Pseudepigrapha in Context* \*

A sometimes interesting, sometimes boring, book on

some of the Latin creations which were attributed to authors who didn't actually write them. It focus significantly on the poems attributed to Virgil (such as the *Culex*), but the author also covers a few others too.

- ✓ (Jeff) Peires, *The Dead Will Arise: Nongqawuse and the Great Xhosa Cattle-Killing Movement of 1856-7*

When it comes down to the topic at hand, i.e. the aforementioned "Great Xhosa Cattle-Killing Movement of 1856-7", this is undoubtedly a work very worthy of being referenced. It explains the whole thing, in context, from the very beginning to end, presents some drawings and photos relevant to the topic, and it even contains a quaint chapter in which the most frequently asked questions about the events are answered in a brief and simple way. So, if you are interested in the whole topic, this is certainly the book you have to read!

- ✓ (Armando de Sousa) Pereira, *Guerra e Santidade: o Cavaleiro-Mártir Henrique de Bona e a Conquista Cristã de Lisboa*

On a particular christian knight who was killed during the conquest of Lisbon in the XII century. It succinctly retells three legends associated with him, and also contains some more information on the knight itself.

- ✓ (Bento) Pereira, *Florilégio dos Modos de Falar, e Adágios da Língua Portuguesa*

The second-oldest compilation of proverbs from Portugal, published around the middle of the XVII century. Its second section essentially contains the Portuguese proverbs and the Latin ones which supposedly inspired them, but the author's information on that point is often inaccurate. As for the first one – if anyone is interested in it – it contains a much less interesting listing of Latin phrases that were often used, in a translated form, in the Portuguese language too.

- ✓ (José Dias) Pereira, *Defeza de Cecília Faragó*  
A Portuguese translation of a XVIII century original (in French?), which appears to have been popular at the time, this essentially defends a woman who had been accused of practising witchcraft. Split into three chapters, the first is particularly interesting for the way



in which it shows that harmful magic doesn't exist at all, with the final one exposing further absurdities on the whole accusation against the widow Cecília.

- ✓ (Luís Gonzaga) Pereira, *Profecias de muitos servos de Deos N. S. profetizando a fundação do Quinto Imperio do Senhor na pessoa do seo fundador admiravel. Reunidas de muitos originaes impressos e manuscritos em Lisboa* \*

Seemingly compiled in the first half of the XIX century, this manuscript available in National Library of Portugal presents written copies of many prophecies known in the country at that time. It deserves to be noted that the handwriting is beautiful and easy to read.

- ✓ (Ricardo Estevam) Pereira, *A Descoberta do 'Túmulo de São Torpes' em 1591*

Research paper on the supposed finding of Saint Torpes of Pisa's remains in a beach of Portugal. The author also talks about the context in which it took place, but overall avoids the fact the saint at hand may not even be a real one.

- ✓ (P.) Perestrello da Câmara, *Collecção de*

*Proverbios, Adagios, Rifãos, Anexins, Sentenças  
Moraes e Idiotismos da Lingoa Portuguesa*

A collection of proverbs, adages, sentences, and similar subjects, from Portugal of the middle of the XIX century. In some cases, the author goes as far as explaining their original meaning, which is important since some of them are still used today, occasionally in an incorrect way.

- ✓ (Marco A.) Pérez, *Ritos y Mitos de la Muerte en México y Otras Culturas* \*

Despite its title, this book focuses essentially on many different approaches to the subject of death in Mexico and its culture. A short number of chapters are indeed related to rites and myths, but they approach the subject in a very light way. I was expecting something very different based on the title, i.e. a bigger emphasis on the myths told by people and the rites they make related to death itself, and so I found myself significantly disappointed with this book.

- ✓ (B. E.) Perry, *The Origin of the Epimythium*

This research paper tries to explain how the epimythia, or “morals”, first became associated with the fables of

Aesop. Despite the interesting topic, the author does not provide translations to any of the writers he quotes from, which is a bit disappointing.

✓ (B. E.) Perry, *Secundus The Silent Philosopher* \*

This work starts by presenting the original text and the context in which it was produced, before talking extensively about the manuscripts in which we can still find it. He finally provides some of the original texts and a translation of some of them, so a reader can best assess all of them.

✓ (Fernando) Pessoa, *Lisboa: What the Tourist Should See*

I came across this book by pure chance, it is a brief report on what to visit in the city of Lisbon by one of Portugal's most famous poets. He pretty much just states what can be visited in each particular place, but it should be noted that given the fact it was written 100 years ago, some of the information he presents is outdated by now.

✓ Peter of Abanus, *Magical Elements*

Written around the end of the XIII century, it presents

an explanation of some angel summoning rituals.

- ✓ (David) Petrain, *Homer in Stone: The Tabulae Iliacae in their Roman context*

This work contains extensive information on the *Tabulae Iliacae*, and generally provides good information, often of an introductory nature, about them. It also contains some drawings and photos of some of the tablets. There's just a small problem – sometimes the author presents the images next to text referring to them, but more often he just places them at the end of the book, making it significantly hard to compare and contrast the text and descriptions with the images themselves.

- ✓ Petrarch, *Canzoniere*

A compilation of over 300 poems written by Petrarch, which also ended up having a significant influence in subsequent poets.

- ✓ Petrarch, *Secret*

It seems this was not a book designed to be published, but instead found after Petrarch's death and made available to the public without his express wishes.

Essentially, it presents a meditation by the author along with a fictional version of Saint Augustine, as the former explores his personal flaws and what he should be doing to achieve his own happiness.

I always found one of the ideas preserved in this book to be very important to everyone's life, and so I felt I should paraphrase it here – "Imagine that a god-like figure appears to you and reveals that you're going to die a single year from now; wouldn't you change many things about your life?"; of course you would, but the author proceeds with his argument "The truth is that we have no such god-like figure in our lives. Instead, life is entirely unpredictable, we can live only five more minutes or over 50 more years, and yet... we insist on conducting our lives as if we were going to be around forever". If you, my fellow reader, are currently reading this, please consider Petrarch's argument and try to apply it to your own life; you're not going to be around forever, how long are you planning to postpone *this* and *that*?

✓ Petrarch, *Triumphs*

Perhaps best defined as a poetic metaphor for life, in which Love, presented first, is triumphed over by

Chastity, which in turn is then succeedingly triumphed over by Death, Fame, Time and Eternity. Across its lines it contains small references to figures from history and myth, as was common at the time.

✓ (W. M. Flinders) Petrie, *Egyptian Tales*

A compilation of a few notable stories taken from the papyrus of Ancient Egypt.

✓ Petronius, *Satyricon*

Back to less serious subjects, this *Satyricon* only reached us in a fragmentary form, with a few (main?) sequences being preserved in a continuous form. It contains many potentially offensive and sexual episodes.

✓ Petrus Hispanus, *Liber de Conservanda Sanitate*

A book on how to conserve your health, telling you what you should – and shouldn't – eat, but also offering many pieces of advice on what you should do to promote a great health. Many pieces of advice by the author still apply to our own day and age.

✓ Petrus Hispanus(?), *Thesaurus Pauperum* \*

A collection of recipes on how to heal particular health problems, attributed to Petrus Hispanus in some manuscripts. Each section features some kind of issue and then presents, in a very succinct way, what each author says about how to deal with it. Naturally, some of those “cures” may seem very strange by today’s standards.

- ✓ (Olive G.) Pettis, *Autobiography by Jesus of Nazareth* \*

This book, written by a medium, deserves to be noted for its strange existence. I read little of it, enough to see it would not be worth much more of my time.

- ✓ Phaedrus, *Fables*

In this work the author essentially translated to Latin and versified many of the fables that had been attributed to Aesop.

- ✓ Pherecydes of Syros, *Fragments*

Hermann S. Schibli’s edition contains 90 different fragments from this author. At least three of them regard mythological subjects, presenting the very first

lines of his theogony, the remains of one episode in which Zeus gave a robe to Earth, and a confrontation among the gods.

✓ Philo of Alexandria, *On Animals*

Short philosophical treatise on whether animals have reason or not. Both sides of the case are argued here, one after the other.

✓ Philo of Alexandria, *On the Giants*

In some of the chapters of the biblical *Book of Genesis* you can find very short, almost entirely lost, plot lines mentioning "giants" and similar figures. That's what this small work is about.

✓ Philo of Alexandria, *Questions and Answers on Genesis* \*

A very interesting book, in which Philo of Alexandria mentions many questions you may have about the biblical *Book of Genesis*, and then attempts to answer them.

✓ Philo of Byblos, *Phoenician History* (f)

These fragments, mostly brought to us by Eusebius of



Caesarea, essentially preserve some early episodes of the supposed history of Phoenicia, which he claims were later reused by Hesiod for his famous works. Although the information at hand is important, it also deserves to be noted that the author, translating from a now-lost work of one Sanchuniathon, usually uses Greek names for his deities and figures, which makes it hard for readers to identify who they originally were.

- ✓ Philo of Byzantium [the Paradoxographer], *On the Seven Wonders of the World*

This work succinctly describes six of the seven wonders, although replacing the (more famous) Lighthouse of Alexandria with the Walls of Babylon. Unfortunately, the author can't have seen them all by himself, which has to make us wonder about the sources he used for his descriptions, and so they have to be taken with a significant grain of salt.

- ✓ Philochorus, *Atthis* (f)

This work only reached us in fragments, but even like that it still preserves us many curious elements from the early history and culture of Attica and Athens.

✓ Philodemus, *Epigrams*

The edition I read, edited by David Sider, contains 38 epigrams. They reference a few deities and heroes (particularly the goddess of love), but contain no major mythological references.

✓ Philodemus, *On Frank Criticism*

This one honestly seemed like a very interesting work, but the current fragmentary state makes it very hard to accurately evaluate it. At least in one point the author raises a great question – how can we distinguish between someone who genuinely accepts frank criticism, and someone who only appears to do so? – but the available text does not make it possible for us to get any kind of proper answer to it.

✓ Philodemus, *On Property Management*

Maybe this was originally a great work, but in its current fragmentary state it's not a very interesting read. It does provide, here and there, a few pearls of wisdom regarding the topic at hand, but that's about it, since the overall argument is very hard to follow.

✓ Philostratus, *Life of Apollonius of Tyana*

As already mentioned above, Apollonius of Tyana was a philosopher and prophetic figure that in Roman times was frequently compared to Jesus Christ. So, based on a few sources available to him (but now lost), Philostratus wrote this life, presenting information on the potentially historical figure, but strangely... not making it possible for us to see what were the big resemblances which united Apollonius with Jesus himself.

✓ Philostratus, *On Heroes*

A strange and fictional account on some unusual stories from the Trojan War, purporting to tell us some "real facts" from it.

✓ Phlegon of Tralles, *Book of Marvels*

Only partially extant, it contains many strange (or, to be more accurate, *marvellous*) stories from the Antiquity, including ones of ghosts, werewolves, and other strange creatures.

✓ Photius (of Alexandria), *Bibliotheca* \*

This work by Photius of Alexandria is one of our most important resources on lost works. Essentially, the

author read almost 300 books and summed them up for a brother; some entries are too short to be any useful, others are very long and provide immense information on the original works, but many also tell us about the content of literary productions no longer available to us, and which you can here consult indirectly in order to gain at least some basic information about them.

Among the most relevant works mentioned by Photius you can find those of Ctesias (codex 72), Diogenes (codex 166), Conon (codex 186), Ptolemy Hephaestion (codex 190), and Proclus (codex 239).

✓ (Alexandre) Piankoff, *The Pyramid of Unas*  
An English translation of the texts contained on the walls of the Pyramid of Unas. It also features plenty of notes, and extensive plates showing the original hieroglyphs. Although many passages mention gods, very few mythological stories make a direct appearance here.

✓ (Ladislau) Piçarra, "A Tradição" \*  
Published in Portugal between 1899 and 1904, this magazine contains many subjects of ethnological

importance, but the most unusual of them all is the fact it very occasionally obtained reports from people who claimed to have seen some legendary beings themselves.

- ✓ (David) Pierce, *The Survival of American Silent Feature Films: 1912-1929* \*

Basically presenting some statistics on the survival of early silent movies from the US. The author provides some information on a very limited number of them.

- ✓ (Stephen) Pile, *The Not Terribly Good Book of Heroic Failures*

A quaint book with small, often just one-page, stories about significant failures. The topic may not seem like a big deal, but the work itself will definitely put a smile in your face here and there.

- ✓ (Alberto) Pimentel, *História do Culto de Nossa Senhora em Portugal* \*

Although this work seems to begin interesting at first, I felt the chapters started to become less and less interesting as you read more and more, to the point some of the late ones even present extensive poems,

etc. That's what led me to stop reading it, but overall, and if you're able to get across some less interesting chapters, perhaps the author does indeed fulfil his goal of telling the "complete" history of the Virgin Mary's cult in Portugal.

- ✓ (Alberto) Pimentel, *O Poeta Chiado: Novas Investigações sobre a sua vida e escriptos*

The author having first approached the subject a few years before, in this late document he presents his additional findings about the Portuguese poet who was eventually known as "o Chiado".

- (Alberto) Pimentel, *Portugal de Cabelleira* \*

- ✓ (Jody Rubin) Pinault, *Hippocratic Lives and Legends* \*

Despite the slightly misleading name of this work, the author essentially focuses on a few ancient lives and two from the arabic period, presenting essentially three episodes associated with Hippocrates' life. He does, however, present the main texts in their original language, along with English translations.

- ✓ (Geraldine) Pinch, *Egyptian Mythology: A Guide to the Gods, Goddesses, and Traditions of Ancient Egypt* \*

Somewhat of a broad introduction to the myths of Ancient Egypt, more on the scholarly side than for general audiences. However, it does contain an interesting asset – a huge encyclopedic chapter where mythological figures are presented and, when it comes to the most famous ones, primary sources are even mentioned for them.

- ✓ Pindar, Fragments

The extant fragments of the works of Pindar, many of them coming from Oxyrhynchus Papyri, preserve small references to myths, a few number of which now appear to be lost to us.

- ✓ Pindar, *Ishtmian Odes*<sup>20</sup>

---

20 The odes from this particular compilation, along with the ones from the next entries, contain many small allusions to myths. Since tracking them all would be difficult, I only present here the odes I feel contain major mythical references.

The sixth ode contains the myth of Heracles' visit to Telamon's house. The eighth reports the circumstances of the birth of Achilles, and how glorious that hero eventually became.

✓ Pindar, *Nemean Odes*

First one, the birth of Heracles and how the hero dealt with two snakes sent by Hera. Fifth, a small preface on how Peleus got to marry Thetis. Seventh, the fate of Neoptolemus after leaving Troy. Eighth, the contest for the gear of Achilles. Tenth, the death of Castor and how his brother, Polydeuces, decided to share his personal immortality with him.

✓ Pindar, *Olympian Odes*

First ode, the myths of Pelops and Tantalus. Second one, a few brief myths related to immortality, leading to a small description of the Isle of the Blessed. Sixth, the (now obscure) myth of Iamus. Seventh, the birth of Athena and its celebration, including the offering of the island of Rhodes to Helios. Eighth, the building of the walls of Troy. Tenth, the founding of the Olympic Games. Thirteenth, the myth of Bellerophon.



✓ Pindar, *Pythian Odes*

Second ode, the myth of Ixion. Third, the myths of the healers Chiron and Asclepius. The fourth retells us the myth of Jason and the Argonauts in an extended way. Sixth, preserves a bit of the confrontation between Antilochus and Memnon. Ninth, the love of Apollo for Kyrene. Eleventh, the death of Agamemnon and Orestes' (eventual) revenge. Twelfth, Perseus' slaying of the Medusa and an unusual outcome of that episode.

✓ (Manuel) Pinheiro Chagas, *Diccionario Popular* \*

Across its many volumes, this work presents a brief reference to topics from all over the world, generally regarding history, mythology and literature, among other related subjects. Unfortunately, its sources are seldom mentioned.

✓ (Manuel) Pinheiro Chagas, *História Alegre de Portugal*

This history of Portugal is written in a very simple and informal way, almost as an informal conversation in a local coffee shop. It provides a basic overview of the entire history, but also some occasional comments on

significant myths and legends.

- ✓ (Augusto Soares de Azevedo Barbosa de) Pinho Leal, *Portugal Antigo e Moderno* \*

Through twelve big volumes, this work presents information on almost every village and city which existed, or had existed, in Portugal by the XIX century, plus plenty of cultural information, such as legends, how many people lived in each location, what main buildings were available there, etc. Although it is definitely a noteworthy encyclopedia, it also misses a lot of significant information (e.g. at one point it talks about the cavern near Porto Côvo, but not about the small village itself), and sometimes also presents information that today's readers may not be necessarily interested in.

- ✓ (António Cerqueira) Pinto, *História da Prodigiosa Imagem de Christo Crucificado, que tem o título de Bom Jesus de Bouças* \*

Simply put, this book could be resumed as containing everything you'd ever like to know about the famous image of the Good Jesus of Bouças, or Matosinhos, in the north of Portugal, but it should also be noted that

it is filled with incorrect information, the author seemingly believing any myth and legend he could come across. As such, if you're looking for legendary information on that specific image you may enjoy this work, but those looking for more reliable information on it will definitely not find it here.

✓ Pinto de Carvalho (Tinop), *História do Fado* \*

In spite of its original name, perhaps it is best to define this book as one on the many stories of the Portuguese "fado", since the author takes a very light and shallow approach to the whole subject, dedicating very small sections to all kinds of figures related to this song style from Portugal, from the super famous "Severa" to more obscure men and women related to this art.

- (António Thomaz) Pires, *Cantos Populares Portuguezes* \*

✓ (António Thomaz) Pires, *Contos Populares Alentejanos Recolhidos da Tradição Oral* \*

Seemingly compiled as a single work only after the author's death – the edition I read was by Mário F.

Lages – this book presents multiple traditional oral stories collected in the area of Alentejo, in Portugal.

✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *Cisma da Granja do Tedo*  
In spite of its title, this very brief article simply focuses on some of the spells supposedly used by Maria Coroadada after the religion she created ended.

✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *Influência dos Mouros, Judeus e Negros na Etnografia Portuguesa*  
Brief considerations on how Moors, Jews and Africans may have influenced the culture of Portugal. The author presents more theories and possibilities than any kind of real certainties.

✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *Mouros, Judeus e Negros na História de Portugal*  
Although this work is mostly about the influence of the Moors, Jews and Blacks in the traditional culture of Portugal, it deserves to be specially noted for the fact its author also jotted down brief references to (now) lesser known legends of Enchanted Mooresses from all over the country.

- ✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *S. Rosendo: Nun'Alvars do século X*

A short article about the Saint Rudesind, briefly presenting him, some of the events of his life, and how he was still remembered by people through some local traditions.

- ✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *Tradições Populares de Origem Possivelmente Muçulmana*

In less than eight pages, the author mentions five legends or traditions which may have come to Portugal through the Muslims, but the real evidence he presents for each of them is limited and unconvincing.

- ✓ (J. A.) Pires de Lima, *Uma Santa Barbuda (A Propósito da Lenda de Santa Vilgeforte)*

In this brief work the author presents multiple regional versions of the legend of Saint Wilgefortis, further complemented with a few similar real-world occurrences he was familiar with.

- Plato<sup>21</sup>, *Apology [of Socrates]*

---

21 Despite the fact I read all of Plato's works,

- Plato?, *Axiochus*
- Plato, *Charmides*
- Plato?, *Clitophon*
- Plato, *Cratylus*

✓ Plato, *Critias*

Containing the second part of the story of Atlantis. It was supposedly going to be followed by a work titled *Hermocrates*, which was either lost very early or never even written at all (the second option seems more likely, since nobody ever quotes from it). For that reason, Atlantis' tale, which is never mentioned by another completely independent source, will seemingly remain incomplete until the end of time.

- Plato, *Crito*
- Plato?, *Definitions*

---

including a few apocryphal ones, most of them feature little or no mythological content. So, to prevent from turning this sequence into nothing more than a repetition of "This is a dialogue on...", I'll only partially describe those I've always felt contain specially interesting myth-like information.

- Plato?, *Demodocus*
- Plato?, *Epinomis* \*
- Plato?, *Epistles* \*
- Plato?, *Eryxias*
- Plato, *Euthydemus*
- Plato, *Euthyphro*
- Plato, *First Alcibiades*
- Plato, *Gorgias*
- Plato?, *Halcyon*
- Plato?, *Hipparchus*
- Plato, *Hippias Major*
- Plato, *Hippias Minor*
- Plato, *Ion*
- Plato, *Laches*
- Plato, *Laws* \*
- Plato, *Lysis*
- Plato, *Menexenus*
- Plato, *Meno*
- Plato?, *Minos*
- Plato?, *On Justice*
- Plato?, *On Virtue*
- Plato, *Parmenides* \*
- Plato, *Phaedo*

- Plato, *Phaedrus*
- Plato, *Philebus*
- Plato, *Protagoras*

✓ Plato, *Republic*

The *Republic* is arguably Plato's biggest and most famous work. It's not an easy read, but it contains pearls such as the sequence on the "Ring of Gyges", the "Allegory of the Cave", the "Metaphor of the Sun", the "Ship of State", the "Myth of Er", and the "Allegory of the Chariot". Ideally, one should read (and, I'd assume, understand...) the entire work, but in worst case scenario at least these passages deserve special mention to everyone who is interested in Philosophy.

- Plato?, *Rival Lovers*
- Plato, *Second Alcibiades*
- Plato, *Sophist*
- Plato, *Statesman*

✓ Plato, *Symposium*

A work on love. A metaphor presented here by Aristophanes may be the origin of the idea that we all have a soulmate; he (mockingly) explains that human



beings once used to have four arms and four legs, but the gods eventually decided to split us up in two beings, and so looking for love was essentially looking for that other missing half of ourselves.

- Plato?, *Sisyphus*
- Plato, *Theaetetus*
- Plato?, *Theages*

✓ Plato, *Timaeus*

A deeply influential dialogue, but which should be mentioned here particularly due to the fact that it preserves the initial part of the speech on the subject of Atlantis. It then continues on the *Critias*.

✓ Plautus, *Amphitryon*

A tragic comedy on the myth of Alcmena's pregnancy by Jupiter. Contains several funny mix-ups between her husband and the father of the gods' own transformation into the woman's husband.

- Plautus, *Mercator*

✓ Pliny the Elder, *Naturalis Historia*

\*

This is usually not a work you can or should read, unless you have a lot of free time to waste. It's an encyclopedia-like creation, featuring a lot of information in many different areas, and which you may want to consult when you're looking for a very specific piece of information.

✓ Pliny the Younger, *Letters*

This collection of letters can essentially be split into two sequences, the first with those written for random people, some of them quite famous to us, and the second with ones written exclusively for Trajan (sometimes even containing his answer back). Overall, they contain lots of information on the author's time and network of connections, but I found specially interesting letters III.5 (referring Pliny the Elder's lesser known works), VI.16 and VI.20 (a full report on the famous eruption of the Vesuvius, and Pliny the Elder's unfortunate death), VII.27 (containing a few, and supposedly real, ghost stories), X.88-89 (a small message celebrating the Emperor's birthday), and X.96-97 (regarding how to treat Christians and the accusations against them).

- Plutarch, *Moralia*<sup>22</sup> – *A philosopher ought to converse especially with men in power*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Against Colotes*

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Beasts are rational*

Also titled *Gryllus*, this is a conversation between Odysseus and a former man who Circe had turned into a pig. It is more serious than one would expect given its subject.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Comparison between Aristophanes and Menander*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Concerning music*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Concerning such whom God is slow to punish*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Concerning the cure of anger*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Concerning the training of children*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Concerning the virtues of*

---

22 For Plutarch's *Moralia*, I provide here the names of the treatises which I read, but I only mention the content for those which I find specially important for its mythological content or information.

women

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Conjugal precepts*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Consolation to Apollonius*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Consolation to his wife*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Dialogue on Love*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Dinner of the Seven Sages*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *How a man may become aware of his progress in virtue*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *How a man may receive advantage and profit from enemies*
  
- ✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *How a young man should study poetry*

Despite somewhat unrelated to Mythology, this is a very interesting treatise on the reading and interpretation of poetry.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *How to tell a flatterer from a friend*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Is the Saying "Live in Obscurity" Right?*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *It is impossible to live pleasantly in the manner of Epicurus*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Laws and customs of the*

*lacedaemonians*

✓ (Pseudo-)Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Love Stories*

Preserving five love stories, but they're all unrelated to mythological subjects.

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Natural Questions*

A compilation of questions (and answers, obviously) related to natural subjects.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of Banishment*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of Bashfulness*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On Common Conceptions*  
*Against the Stoics*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of Hearing*

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of Isis and Osiris*

In the context of the study of Mythology this is perhaps Plutarch's most famous and important work. It preserves the extensive story of Isis and Osiris, two famous Egyptian gods.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of superstition, or indiscreet devotion*

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Of the Tranquility of the mind*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On Affection for offspring*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On Brotherly Love*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On curiosity*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On envy and hate*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On having many friends*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On moral virtue*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On praising oneself inoffensively*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On Talkativeness*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the birth of the spirit in Timaeus* \*
  - Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the eating of flesh*
- ✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the El at Delphi*

Important due to the fact that Plutarch had some insider knowledge of the Oracle of Delphi.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the Face which appears in the orb of the moon*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the Fortune or Virtue of Alexander the Great*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the Fortune of the*

### *Romans*

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the Glory of the Athenians*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the love of wealth*
  
- ✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the daemon of Socrates*  
 Some considerations on Socrates' personal *daemon*, which is mentioned in a few other works and, apparently, expressed to him what was the correct path to follow in some moments of the philosopher's life.
  
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the malice of Herodotus*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the principle of cold*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On the three sorts of government – monarchy, democracy and oligarchy*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On virtue and vice*
  
- ✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *On why the oracles are no longer delivered in verse*

Another informative treatise, since – as already mentioned above – Plutarch had some insider knowledge of the workings of the Delphic Oracle.

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Platonic Questions*

Presenting some questions (and answers) related to the beliefs of Plato.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Political Precepts*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Remarkable sayings of kings and great commanders*

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Roman questions*

Also containing some questions (and answers) regarding subjects from the culture of the Romans.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Roman sayings*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Rules for the preservation of health*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Sayings of the Spartans*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Sentiments Concerning Nature*

✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Symposiacs*

A long table debate on several different subjects.

- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *That virtue may be taught*



- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *That we ought not to borrow*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *The Contradictions of the Stoics*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *The Stoics speak greater improbabilities than the poets*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *To an uneducated ruler*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Whether affections of the soul are worse than those of the body*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Whether an old man should engage in public affairs*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Whether fire or water is more useful*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Whether land or sea animals are cleverer*
- Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Whether vice is sufficient to cause unhappiness*
  
- ✓ Plutarch, *Moralia* – *Why the Oracles cease to give answers*

Another important treatise due to the author's personal insider knowledge of the Delphic Oracle.

- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives*<sup>23</sup> – Alexander
- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives* – Cicero
- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives* – Numa Pompilius
- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives* – Romulus
- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives* – Theseus
- Plutarch, *Parallel Lives* – Comparison between Theseus and Romulus
- (Pseudo-)Plutarch, *On Fate*

✓ (Pseudo-)Plutarch, *On Rivers*

On rivers *and* mountains, it contains some mythological information related to those subjects.

- (Pseudo-)Plutarch, *On the lives of the ten orators*

---

23 The *Parallel Lives* essentially preserve for us several biographies of two similar Greek and Roman figures, followed by a comparison between them. Some of them are historical figures, such as Cicero, while others are essentially mythical, such as Romulus and Theseus. They deserve to be read if you're looking specifically for information on a particular historical or mythological figure which the author decided to cover.

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Plutarch, *Parallel Stories*

A comparison of stories coming from Greek and Latin culture.

- ✓ (Robert S.) Pohl, *Urban Legends & Historic Lore of Washington, D.C.*

A quaint book, the author briefly quotes some local legends associated with Washington, D.C., and then refutes them the best we can, even presenting a few sources for his information.

- ✓ Policarpo da Silva, *O Piolho Viajante* \*

Apparently famous in Portugal and Brazil in the XIX century, this is the story of a lice. I know it was supposed to be funny, but I found it be quite boring, to the point I quickly gave up on reading it.

- ✓ Polícia Judiciária, *Um Diamante de Histórias – 75 anos, 75 testemunhos de quem fez e faz a Polícia Judiciária* \*

A collection of 75 real-life stories compiled by 75 workers of "Polícia Judiciária", a branch of the police in Portugal. The quality of said stories

varies widely from one author to the next.

✓ Polydore Virgil, *De Inventoribus Rerum* \*

Written near the end of the XV century, this is a book on the origin of "stuff", and it appears to have been very popular at the time. Essentially, it presents opinions from the Antiquity regarding a wide variety of subjects, and although the author attempts to present them in an unbiased form, in some particular sequences he is certainly biased towards one specific opinion, as when he talks about "our true God". In the edition I read, the first three books contained general subjects and the next five focused on Christian belief and rituals, while the partially censored ninth appeared to focus on more mystical topics.

✓ Pomponius Mela, *Description of the World*

Essentially, in this work the author briefly describes the known world of his time, essentially talking about cities, mountains, notable places, etc. However, from a mythological standpoint, this work is notable for alluding to the many legends associated with each particular location, and also retelling a few obscure stories related to strange human-like creatures living

in lesser-known areas of the world, such as the Panotti or the Blemmyae (two of my favourites).

✓ Porphyry of Tyre, *Contra Christianos* (f)

A famous work against the Christians, only preserved for us due to the fact that Christian authors themselves often quoted from it in their apologetic efforts. The extant lines do give the reader plenty of room to think about, as he seemingly judged Christianity and its beliefs from a purely rational standpoint.

✓ Porphyry of Tyre, *Homeric Questions*

Here are presented a large number of questions related to the Homeric Poems, which the author attempts to answer by himself or with the help of other previous sources. Some of the questions are extremely valuable, while others are more focused on things that, overall, normal readers would never care or ask about.

- Porphyry of Tyre, *Letter to his wife Marcella*
- Porphyry of Tyre, *Life of Pythagoras*

✓ Porphyry of Tyre, *On Abstinence from Animal*

### *Food*

This is probably one of the first apologies for Vegetarianism, basing it on spiritual and ethical grounds. Personally it failed to convince me, but if you're interested in the subject it presents, this is undoubtedly one of the most important works from the Antiquity on why you shouldn't eat meat from animals.

✓ Porphyry of Tyre, *On the Cave of the Nymphs*  
A short commentary on that particular episode from the *Odyssey*.

✓ Porphyry of Tyre, *On the life of Plotinus*  
Plotinus being Porphyry's teacher, one could assume this was a very well-informed report.

- Porphyry of Tyre?, *The epistle of Porphyry to the Egyptian Anebo*
- (Suzannah M.) Portway, *Do you know I have Asperger's syndrome? Risks of a non-obvious disability*

✓ Posidippus, *Epigrams* (f)

Although these fragments do contain some

mythological references, they're generally far from noteworthy in that aspect.

✓ Possidius, *Life of Saint Augustine* \*

A succinct life of Saint Augustine, written by one of his friends. It could be interesting to compare it with Augustine's own *Confessions*, and see in what points, if any, they preserve different information.

✓ (Edmond) Pottier, *Douris and the Painters of Greek Vases*

Focusing essentially on examples from vase paintings by Douris, this work from the early XX century makes several considerations regarding vase painting in Ancient Greece. It tends to rely more on mere theory than in facts, but it does make some thought-provoking points here and there.

✓ (Robert) Price, *The Christ Myth Theory and its problems*

A presentation of the "Christ Myth Theory", including, as the title itself also says, a description of some of its problems.

- ✓ (Joseph) Priestley, *A History of the Corruptions of Christianity*

Written near the ending of the XVIII century, and now available as a public domain work, this book reports on the original beliefs of Christianity and how they eventually changed across time.

- ✓ (Susan) Prince, *Antisthenes of Athens: Texts, Translations, and Commentary* \*

A very complete book, essentially presenting everything you may want to know about Antisthenes of Athens and the extant fragments of his works. For each individual fragment the author presents the text in the original language and a translation to English, along with a commentary and some additional notes on the textual sequence you just read.

- ✓ Prince Harry, *Spare*

I had mixed feelings about this work, since it allows readers to have an extremely rare look over the private life of a member of western monarchy, but also tends to make it all sound incredibly mundane. At the same time, there are, here and there, some very interesting chapters, occasionally followed by equally



boring ones.

- ✓ (Heather) Pringle, *The Master Plan: Himmler's Scholars and the Holocaust*

About the German "Ahnenerbe" and the Nazi quest for knowledge of an original and supreme race around the time of the second World War.

- ✓ (Faltonia Betitia) Proba, *Cento Vergilianus de laudibus Christi*

Best known as the earliest extant composition by a christian woman, this is essentially a poem about the expulsion from the Garden of Eden and the life of Jesus Christ. It was written in a "cento" form, the original author being Virgil, and it is an intriguing poem, although not exactly pleasing to the casual reader.

- (Paula) Prober, *Your Rainforest Mind*
- Procopius, *Buildings* \*

- ✓ Procopius, *Secret History* \*

Famous for preserving problematic historical details that we'd usually not get first hand (and certainly not

in the same author's *History*), and which the author would definitely not want to publish himself, as it'd certainly put him into much trouble with those he talks about.

✓ (Enrico Emanuele) Prodi, *Tzetzikai Epeynai* \*

A recent compilation of papers, originally presented at a conference, on different topics related to Tzetzes and his literary production.

✓ (Theodorus) Prodromos, *Battle of Cats and Mice*

Written in the XII century, this is a funny Byzantine parody of the Homeric Poems and classical tragedies, about a group of mice fighting a cat.

✓ Prods Oktor Skjærvø, *An Introduction to Manicheism*

I was sent a copy of this document, which appears to be constituted of supporting notes for college lectures. It is noteworthy for the fact it presents Manicheism in a very simple way, from the beginning to end, along with how it appeared, its essential history, its extant documents, and so on. Perhaps some sections could be elaborated even further, but one has to assume that's

where the actual lectures come in.

- Profiles in History: *Doc Dave Winiewicz: Frazetta Collection* \*
- Propertius, *Elegies*
- ✓ (Elizabeth Clare) Prophet, *The Lost Years of Jesus: Documentary Evidence of Jesus' 17-Year Journey to the East*

I was expecting this to be one of those crazy books filled with completely absurd and biased information. Instead, it is just a romanticised account derived from Notovitch's *La vie inconnue de Jesus Christ*, presenting a translation of that work, along with two significant others, to English. It is a bit biased towards the presence of Jesus in India during his early years, but at least the idea is not as crazy as one would initially suppose.

- ✓ Prudentius, *Crowns of Martyrdom*

A collection of poems regarding Christians who were martyred. Essentially, they tend to be small stories in which we are told a little bit about each figure and then, in a more extensive way, how their martyrdom

occurred. Unexpectedly, in some of these stories the martyrs go as far as displaying an above-average knowledge of classical myths (which they invariably mock), before dying.

- Prudentius, *Hymns*

- ✓ Prudentius, *Psychomachia* \*

Undoubtedly this author's most famous work, it presents an allegorical battle among vices and virtues. It had some significant impact on the Middle Ages, particularly in works such as the *Romance of the Rose*.

- Prudentius, *The Origin of Sin*

- ✓ Prudentius, *Titles of History*

Also known as *Dittochaeon*, this is a collection of 49 quatrains summing up the main content of the Old and the New Testaments, seemingly written down to serve as legends for paintings on a church.

- ✓ (George) Psalmanazar, *An Historical and Geographical Description of Formosa, an Island subject to the Emperor of Japan* \*

Generated through a hoax in the early XVIII century, this book was written by a Frenchman while pretending to be the very first native of Formosa – now Taiwan – visiting Europe. It is evidently crowded with fake information, including false images of supposed local gods, and an unreal local alphabet. Although the work is (now) far from interesting, at the time of its original publication it was evidently considered like a very important literary production.

- ✓ (Michael) Psellus, *On the Operation of the Daemons*

A dialogue between two men, one of which seeks to learn more about *daemons*. It contains information on how the “demons” were seen back in the XI century of our era.

- ✓ (Claudius) Ptolemy, *Tetrabiblos* \*

An important book on Astrology, which should not be confused with the same author’s *Almagest*, that one a work on Astronomy.

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Ptolemy, *Centiloquium* \*

Of some importance in the Middle Ages, this work

contains 100 aphorisms related to Astrology, supposedly written by Ptolemy.

- ✓ Pu Songling, *Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio* \*

Compiled at the end of the XVII century, this work contains many short stories from China, all of them containing mysterious, magical and mystical elements. Depending on the edition, you may be able to read more or less stories – mine had 104 – but overall they tend to be very pleasing, intriguing and unexpected to western and eastern audiences alike.

- ✓ Publi(li)us Syrus, *Sayings* \*

These sayings, or *Sententiae*, are essentially a collection of about 1087 moral maxims. Some of them appear to still be in use nowadays.

- ✓ (Martin) Puchner, *The Written Word: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, Civilization*\*

Described in some ads as a “story of literature in sixteen acts”, it presents succinct information on some of the world’s most famous and important books, from the *Iliad* and the *Epic of Gilgamesh* up to works such

as the *Tale of Genji*, *Don Quixote* and the *Communist Manifesto*.

✓ (Reena) Puri, *Ekadanta, Tales of Ganapati*

A comic book containing multiple legends related to the god Ganesha. They seemingly came from different original sources, since the drawing style between stories is different, but the book also has a bit of a strange problem – the final pages are about the eight avatars of Ganesha, but instead of showing readers their respective stories as had been done until then, the author simply presents an image of each avatar along with a block of text describing their adventures, which is naturally very disappointing in a comic book.

✓ (Francisco Ignacio da) Purificação, *Colecção de Profecias Contendo Profecias Achadas num Convento do Minho*

A short collection of “prophecies” from XIX century Portugal, containing a few new ones, but also ones associated with Bandarra and Pimentel. The new ones, presented in the first chapter, are certainly the most notable ones, since their author, whoever he was, was seemingly aware of international prophecies, including

the famous one of a last pope named Peter.



## 18- Section Q

- ✓ (John D.) Quackenbos, *Illustrated History of Ancient Literature, Oriental and Classical* \*

I was particularly curious on how this could be “illustrated”, and it seems to be so by including some limited engravings here and there, with some small images slightly related to the topics discussed. Apart from that factor, this work briefly presents the main works from some oriental countries, such as India and China, but then focuses a lot more extensively in Ancient Greece and Rome, which is a bit disappointing for those expecting to learn more about the literature of all those cultures, but at least the author quotes fairly significant sections from each of the main works he discusses.

- ✓ (Tiago João) Queimada e Silva, *Os feitos de D. Fuas Roupinho na Crónica de 1419*

This article evaluates the possible historicity of two episodes of the “Chronicle of 1419” related to Fuas Roupinho. The author can’t be sure this man was actually a real historical figure, as I myself was also

wondering at the time.

✓ (Francisco de) Quevedo, *El Buscón*

A novel from the beginning of XVII century Spain.

Although it has, here and there, some funny moments, overall it is a passable work.

✓ Quintilian, *Institutes of Oratory* \*

In the previous chapters I have already mentioned several works which were very important in the history of literary criticism. Although this one can be considered slightly below them in importance, in its tenth book he also mentions a corpus of authors which were specially important and deserved to be read for several reasons.

✓ Quintus Smyrnaeus, *Posthomerica*

When I started learning about Greek Mythology, I always heard that the mythological tales which occurred between the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were essentially lost, save for the simple references that today constitute part of the Epic Cycle fragments. Nobody ever told me about this work, which was written – as its name best indicates – precisely to

complement the story of the two Homeric Epics. Its style is slightly different, and we're not even aware when did the author wrote the poem, but it does serve for its purpose, presenting almost all the missing adventures, even if some of them, like the death of Achilles, are hardly represented in the same way in which the older poems featured them.



## 19- Section R

### ✓ Rabbula, *Admonitions to Monks*

Likely one of the earliest set of rules for monks, from the V century AD. They are very simple, essentially just giving a set of very basic laws they should follow, and which were apparently derived from problems Rabbula, as a bishop of Edessa, had faced in the past.

### ✓ (François) Rabelais, *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

A completely satirical adventure in five books, through which the reader is presented the adventures of the giant Gargantua and his son, Pantagruel. The story is filled with completely crazy events and strange philosophical discussions, which range from Trojan Pigs and battles against gigantic monsters up to the reasons why one should – or not – marry if he is afraid of becoming a cuckold. The author extensively quotes and refers to famous writers of the past, from which he is certainly inspired for many of the adventures presented here. Overall, a fun book, but best enjoyed if you are also aware of the many authors Rabelais talks about and alludes to.

- ✓ (Walpola) Rahula, *What the Buddha Taught: Revised and Expanded Edition with Texts from Suttas and Dhammapada*

This is an extremely interesting book on the teachings of the Buddha. It is very well explained and written in a way fit for all audiences. Likely the best book I ever read on this subject, even if you know very little – or nothing – about the topic at hand.

- ✓ (Marc) Raimondi, *Say Hello to the Bad Guys*  
The story of wrestling's NWO, and how it influenced North American culture at the time. It is not very detailed, but through this book you certainly get a basic overview of the whole story.

- ✓ (C.) Rajagopalachari, *Mahabharata*  
A summary version of the Mahabharata, adapting the story to modern audiences. It is evidently much shorter than the original, and although it seems to retain all the major episodes, some (minor ones?) I could still remember from the epic are not present here. Nonetheless, it seems like a good work to get a general feeling of the famous epic from India.

- ✓ (King) Rama I, *Ramakien* \*

To find this epic from Thailand was no easy task, but ultimately I ended up locating an English translation based on a German one – certainly imperfect, but better than no translation at all. Essentially, this is an adaptation of the famous *Ramayana* from India, with the addition of some new episodes and some notable changes, e.g. Hanuman is not so averse to sexual relationships as in the original. It seems to be a very significant cultural production in its original country, but non-native readers may prefer the original over this adaptation.

- ✓ (Martin Nogueira) Ramos, *The Monk and the Heretics: A Reappraisal of Sessō Sosai's Anti-Christian Documents (Mid-Seventeenth Century)*

The title easily communicates what this is all about, the author talks about Sessō Sosai's anti-christian work in context, but he also provides two short translation of passages from *Kirishitan Kanagaki*.

- ✓ (James) Randi, *An Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and*

### *Supernatural*

The title pretty much reports what this book is all about, but what it doesn't say is that the work was clearly written as an introduction to the whole subject, and – at least, in the online edition – the author tends to joke about the topics at hand a whole lot, making this work as funny as it is informative.

- (Otto) Rank, *The Myth of the Birth of the Hero*

✓ Raol[?]<sup>24</sup>, *De expugnatione Lyxbonensi*

An epistle from the XII century which contains a first-hand report of the conquest of the city of Lisboa. The report is from the point of view of someone from northern Europe who participated in the actual siege, and apart from reporting the whole sea travel to Portugal, it contains all the events which supposedly happened until the city was captured and the Ecclesiastical See was instituted; among its most

---

24 I've seen this same document attributed both to one "Raol", and to one "Osbern", based on its initial line, which alludes to one of them as the author and the other as the recipient of the whole epistle.



interesting elements is the fact it preserves some monologues which allegedly took place at the time.

- ✓ (Rudolf Erich) Raspe, *Surprising Adventures of Baron Munchausen*

A report on the strange adventures – and, supposedly, completely real?! – adventures attributed to one Baron Munchausen. Written near the end of the XVIII century.

- ✓ (Maria) Rattazzi, *Le Portugal à vol d'oiseau*  
Originally published in the final decades of the XIX century, this author from France visited Portugal and retells what she saw, more at a cultural level than a monumental one. Some elements of the report appear to be untrue, but she does make some very good points, here and there, about certain aspects of the country's culture.

- ✓ (Félix) Ravaisson, *La Vénus de Milo* \*
- From the end of the XIX century, this book has extensive information and considerations on the original shape the Venus of Milo supposedly had before it was rediscovered in our times. It has no absolute

certainties, but many possibilities, plus – at the end – some images of it looked at the time.

- ✓ (James) Raven, *Lost Libraries: The Destruction of Great Book Collections since Antiquity* \*

This book's title seems to suggest something very different from its content. It does present two cases of lost libraries from the Antiquity, but then its contributors appear to focus on random cases from all over the globe, instead of attempting to construct a history of lost libraries, either at a localized or at a worldwide level. As such, they skip very significant and famous examples of the subject, instead building a partial history of some random lost libraries.

- ✓ Rebello da Silva, *Contos e Lendas* \*

A compilation of four stories, one of them incomplete. In spite of the book's name, it seems that none of these stories is actually based in traditional stories from Portugal.

- ✓ (Nick) Redfern, *Secret History: Conspiracies from Ancient Aliens to the New World Order* \*

Spread into three major categories – “Ancient Aliens”,

"Conspiracies" and "New World Order" – this book presents the most famous topics related to each of those categories. It is very introductory in the way it approaches each of those topics, and does not present any extensive bibliography to those who may want to deepen their knowledge of each topic either.

- ✓ (Nigel) Rees, *Why do we Say? Words and Sayings and Where They Come From*

This book presents many uncommon words and obscure expressions still used in the English language, and briefly tries to explain where each of them comes from. Unfortunately, more often than not the author does not provide his sources, and so it is difficult to understand if he sourced his ideas or is just coming up with everything he presents to the readers.

- ✓ (Noriko T.) Reider, *Japanese Demon Lore: Oni from Ancient Times to the Present*

An essential presentation of the mythological being of "Oni" from Japan, from its oldest preserved references to our own day and age. Each of the book's chapters focuses on a notable episode of its evolution.

- ✓ (Wilfred) Reilly, *Hate Crime Hoax: How the Left is Selling a Fake Race War*

Through its pages, this work presents the idea that hate crimes are less prevalent in the USA than locals are usually led to believe. Apart from presenting its context, and how to solve the whole problem, the author also fully presents many cases relevant to the subject, commenting on them in a way that is not only informative but also funny and thought-provoking.

- ✓ (Armando) Reis, *Contos e lendas da língua portuguesa* \*

A compilation of stories, both legendary and fully fictional, from multiple different countries and areas where Portuguese is spoken. The compilers seem to have picked them from significant literary sources, but the stories they picked are neither particularly noteworthy nor specially interesting.

- ✓ (Mike) Reiss, *Springfield Confidential*

A book on the history of the Simpsons by one of its writers. Unfortunately, it never seems too sure on what it wants to be – a biography of its author? A collection of some common questions about the show?

A behind the scenes work? It tries to do too many things at once, and does none of them any good.

- ✓ (Kenneth W.) Rendell, *Forging History: The Detection of Fake Letters & Documents*

An intriguing book on how to detect post-medieval forgeries of letters and documents. The author explains everything in a very simple and direct way, illustrated with plenty of images. In later chapters he also reports how some famous modern forgeries, such as the Hitler Diaries, were detected.

- ✓ (Nick) Rennison, *Robin Hood: Myth, History and Culture*

On the "real" and mythical aspects of the figure of Robin Hood.

- ✓ Repartição do Turismo, *A Formosa Lusitânia*

Published in 1916, this book presents many old photos from Portugal, along with places to visit (some of which have since disappeared), and even some old ads. Curiously, this work even preserves a version of the legend associated with the local and beautiful castle of Almourol.

✓ Reposianus, *De concubitu Martis et Veneris*

This Latin poem, seemingly composed around the III or IV centuries of our era, presents a version of the homeric episode of the cheating of Venus with Mars, soon caught by the god Vulcan. The poem has extensive descriptions of the environment, but other than that is not particularly noteworthy.

✓ (D.W.) Reynolds, *The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But... A Police Officer's Guide to Testifying in Court*

Although short – under 100 pages in the edition I read – this is an unusual book about what pitfalls police officers should expect in a court of law. However, it is also a good work for people who are going to testify, so they will know what to expect and how to counter some of the tricks attorneys will try to play on you.

✓ (L.D.) Reynolds, *Scribes and Scholars: A Guide to the Transmission of Greek and Latin Literature* \*

A very interesting book explaining how many works from Ancient Greece and Rome managed to find their

way into our own day and age. It also contains some additional materials certainly important for those who seek to explore the transmission of those texts in a more intimate way.

✓ (Bernardim) Ribeiro, *Menina e Moça*

I accidentally came across this text while writing my own work on books banned by the Inquisition. It has absolutely nothing wrong from a modern standpoint, it's just a XVI century pastoral romance.

✓ (João) Ribeiro, *O Folk-Lore: Estudos de literatura popular* \*

A compilation of Portuguese writings by the author on the general subject of folklore. The individual topics are pretty much random, but sometimes there's a small connection between a chapter and the next one. In general, I found the topics to be far from interesting and with some occasional significant flaws in the arguments they present.

✓ (Marta) Ribeiro, *Os três sarcófagos etruscos da coleção de Sir Francis Cook no Museu Arqueológico de São Miguel de Odrinhas* \*

Written in Portuguese, this is a master thesis about the only three Etruscan coffins currently available in the Iberian Peninsula. It contains extensive information about the actual coffins, but also plenty of historical facts on the Quinta de Monserrate (in Sintra, Portugal), where the three once stood, after they were initially imported from Italy.

✓ (Teresa) Ribeiro, *Contos dos Jardins de Cascais*  
 This compilation of some short stories for children based on the gardens of Cascais, Portugal, is further added upon with a section, at the end of each chapter, which reveals the connection between the fictional stories and actual reality. But, strangely enough, some of the "facts" presented there are also fake (such as, claiming the names of all dwarves start with G), which may certainly confuse the younger readers the book was designed for.

✓ (Paula) Richman, *Many Ramayanas: The Diversity of a Narrative Tradition in South Asia* \*  
 This work is a collection of papers about the many versions of Rama's story currently extant in Southern Asia. Each author involved writes about one or a few of



them, and sometimes allude to the main differences they have from Valmiki's most famous version. There are also some additional papers on other aspects of those other versions of the story.

- ✓ (Alasdair) Richmond, *Time Travel Testimony and the 'John Titor' Fiasco*

A research paper, from someone who has studied the subjects at hand, on the theoretical inconsistencies of John Titor's legend.

- ✓ (Nathan J.) Ristuccia, *The Rise of the Spurcalia: Medieval Festival and Modern Myth*

Essentially presenting all that we currently know about a (possible) medieval feast called the *Spurcalia*. And, if you're already wondering about it as you read these lines, we seem to know almost nothing about it, even if it ever really existed.

- ✓ (Maria da Conceição de Melo) Rita, *Os meus 35 anos com Salazar*

A profoundly fascinating autobiography of the woman who is best known as António de Oliveira Salazar's "adoptive daughter". Some aspects of the book did

make me cry, mostly because they contrast so much with how the man is represented today in history books.

- ✓ (Isidro J.) Rivera, *Historia de la Donzella Teodor: Edition and Study* \*

A critical edition of a medieval tale which seems to have been specially popular in Portugal and Spain. Although this work presents the text fairly well, it is strange to note that in spite of being in English, it never translates the work itself into that language, as a casual reader would definitely have expected.

- ✓ (Mary) Roach, *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*

A bit of a funny work about views of the afterlife from a scientific perspective, covering topics in such a wide range like Spiritism, near-death experiences and attempts to weight a soul. The author is both very scientific and knowledgeable in her approach, but still writes in a way that is pleasing and occasionally may even make you laugh.

- ✓ (Jeremy) Roberts, *Chinese Mythology A to Z*

Supposedly this would be a small encyclopedia of myths from China, ordered by their main intervenors, but I found it to contain multiple flaws. Just to give one example, looking up “Feng Huang” states solely that such a character is “the Chinese Phoenix”, but if you look up “Phoenix” instead, you’ll see a lot of information on the figure usually called Feng Huang. Overall, and in itself, this is not a bad introductory book, but it should definitely also be stressed it contains multiple flaws and inaccurate information.

✓ (Jeremy) Roberts, *Japanese Mythology A to Z*  
A good introduction book to the myths of Japan, but like the other work by this same author (see above), it seems to contain some flaws here and there, plus several entries seem far from complete on the information they provide.

✓ (John Elder) Robison, *Look Me in The Eye: My Life With Asperger's*  
An interesting biography of a man’s struggles with many aspects of life and his eventual discovery of Asperger’s.

- ✓ (Natércia) Rocha, *Breve História da Literatura para Crianças em Portugal*

As the title indicates, this is a brief history of literature for children in Portugal. The big issue is that it tells us very little about the books themselves, instead just name-dropping hundreds of works while telling the reader close to nothing about them. This is even more problematic since some of the older works presented here are very difficult to find even nowadays. So, this a fairly good book if you're looking for textual references, but bad for anything else.

- ✓ Rocha Peixoto, *Etnografia Portuguesa* \*

A book about random ethnographic subjects from Portugal. Each chapter is about a different one, but the author hardly ever seems to give a complete portrayal of each subject.

- ✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *Acerca do Hades em Hesíodo*

Simply put, this presents a comparison of the realm of Hades between the Homeric Poems and Hesiod's works, with special emphasis being paid to this second author.

- ✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *As Amazonas. Destino de um Mito Singular*

A research paper on the myths associated with the Amazons, the fighter women from Greek Mythology, where the author traces their main myths and their influence in art.

- ✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *As Origens da Tragédia Grega*

This article essentially recaps some of the newest theories on the origins of Tragedy.

- ✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *Enigmas em Volta do Mito*

A short-ish article on the nature of myth, focusing essentially on the ones from Ancient Greece.

- ✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *Greek Vases in Portugal*

The title is a perfect description of what this book contains – it provides technical information on all the greek vases currently available in Portugal, briefly describes them, and in some cases even explains how

they got here. Unfortunately, although it contains many beautiful plates, they are all stacked near the end of the book, instead of near their individual information, and so in order to take full advantage of this work you have constantly go back and forth through its pages, which is far from desirable.

✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *Romana*

A famous Portuguese anthology of Latin works, from the fragments of Naevius up to authors such as Plutarch and Virgil.

✓ (Maria Helena) Rocha Pereira, *Vasos Gregos: Mensagem de Arte e Cultura*

This research paper features, apart from images from many vases, a notable figures presenting what each vase served for, their typical shape, and their usual name.

✓ (Ana Duarte) Rodrigues, *The Most, and Less, Known Mythographers in Portugal*

A simple research paper which, ultimately, tries to find out which was the most popular mythographer available in Portugal. However, the author also

mentions several others available at the time, making it a good source for further research on those subjects.

- ✓ (Victoria) Rodrigues, *O 'Sebastianismo Popular' e o Fenômeno Visionário na Análise dos Relatos Manuscritos de Maria de Macedo (1650-1658)*

A portuguese monography on the manuscripts written on the case of Maria de Macedo, who supposedly visited the mysterious island where King Sebastian of Portugal awaits his return. The author performs a prolonged and near-flawless comparison of the two extant manuscripts, which is particularly useful if you are interested in their differences, like I was at the time I read it.

- ✓ (Robert) Rodriguez, *The Book of Hermits: A History of Hermits from Antiquity to the Present\**

This is a history of Hermitism, but written with very few information for each step of the way. Perhaps it works as a brief introduction to the whole subject, since it makes it possible for potential readers to later lookup some of the figures they may be most interested in, but more advanced readers will certainly

feel that this work is way too brief in some significant points.

- ✓ (Richard) Roeper, *Debunked! Conspiracy Theories, Urban Legends, and Evil Plots of the 21st Century* \*

Supposedly, this one book would “debunk” the kind of content stated in its title, but instead it just presents specific topics and then goes along to claim something is not true, often without truly presenting rock-solid evidence for those same assertions, as if short arguments and simplistic should be able to convince everyone.

- ✓ (James Cruikshank) Roger, *Celticism A Myth*  
From the end of the XIX century, this book defends the idea that there was no original “Celtic” people in the areas of Ireland and Scotland. Here and there the author makes some notable points, but often he also attacks those who held other opinions.

- ✓ (Dirk) Rohmann, *Christianity, Book-Burning and Censorship in Late Antiquity*

On why works from the Antiquity were destroyed by



Christians in the first centuries of our era. The author goes through time and presents how the whole process evolved.

✓ (James) Rolfe, *Gnome Cave*

A fiction book by a man more famous for his "AVGN" character, I found it far from interesting.

✓ (Francisco) Rolland, *Adagios, Proverbios, Rifaos e Anexins da Lingua Portuguesa* \*

Published in 1780, and seemingly the third oldest work from Portugal on the subject, this is a collection of local proverbs and similar content, most of which obtained from previous collections, as the author admits in his preface. It contains pages and pages of proverbs, ordered by their main subject, but it does not explain either their meaning or usage.

✓ Rollo May, *The Cry for Myth* \*

On the importance of myth, broadly speaking, in society, with special focus on those from North America and the Western World. It is a philosophical work, but it does make some good points on the importance of myth in today's world.

✓ (Geoff) Rolls, *Classic Case Studies in Psychology*  
 Quite an interesting work, in which the author not only presents some of the most significant case studies in Psychology, but also explains, in very simple words, why they were important and what we all learned from them. It is almost a story book, but also contains some occasional professional sections here and there.

✓ (F. E.) Romer, *Pomponius Mela's Description of the World*

An edition of Pomponius Mela's work with an introduction and extensive explanatory notes. But, perhaps its most notable asset is the fact it contains the current names of the many places mentioned by the original author.

✓ Roque do Soveral, *História do Insigne Aparecimento de N. Senhora da Luz, & Suas Obras Maravilhosas* \*

Published at the beginning of the XVII century, this work tells the story behind Lisbon's "Our Lady of the Light", proceeds by extensively disserting about each of her elements, and provides information on the many

miracles which, at the time, had been associated to her and to one of her specific images. Certainly a very noteworthy book if you want to study this specific image of the Virgin Mary.

- ✓ (Don) Rosa, *The Life and Times of Scrooge McDuck*

In the first of two books, Rosa portrays the essential elements of Scrooge McDuck's story, from his young age and his first job up to what seems to be the final of that original plotline.

- ✓ (Don) Rosa, *The Untold Tales of Scrooge McDuck*

In this second book, Rosa adds some more stories of Scrooge McDuck that weren't included in the previous book, and notably concludes a part of the plot which was, perhaps by mere accident, left unfinished before.

- ✓ (Carol) Rose, *Giants, Monsters, and Dragons: An Encyclopedia of Folklore, Legend, and Myth* \*

This encyclopedia contains very succinct information about mythological and legendary creatures and beings from around the globe. Although each entry

always comes with a short bibliography attached to it, which is naturally useful (even if some entries also come from other encyclopedias), it should also be noted that some information presented here is undeniably incorrect and/or significantly incomplete.

- (J.) Rose, *Zoroastrianism: An Introduction* \*
- ✓ (Alfred) Rosenberg, *The Myth of the Twentieth Century* \*

A nazi philosophical work, which appears to defend the idea that the Aryans were the creators of culture, while other people, namely the Jews, were its destroyers. Oddly enough, the book appears to have been famous for being much purchased but seldom read, and I myself couldn't read it all – it contains some interesting sections here and there, but, more often than not, it is quite a heavy read.

- ✓ (Bernard) Rosenthal, *Salem Story: Reading the Witch Trials of 1692*

Essentially a recap of the story of the Salem Witch Trials, based on primary sources and with some information contrasting it with how we see these same

events today. Interesting if you want to learn more about the subject, but some sections felt a bit dull to me, perhaps because it focuses too deeply in each particular case it covers, as opposed to being an introductory work on this topic.

- ✓ (Val) Ross, *You Can't Read This: Forbidden Books, Lost Writing, Mistranslations & Codes*

The title for this book over-promises, while its text under-delivers. This is indeed a book about the history of writing and books, but it is very simple, clearly written for children (as the author herself admits in the preface), and the way it approaches the subject is far from systematic, sometimes dedicating too much text to minor subjects, and too few to more interesting areas. A chapter does deserve to be noted, though – in it, the author parallels the rise of printing in Korea with that of the West, and that's an unexpectedly interesting one!

- ✓ (Luciano) Rossi, *A Literatura Novelística na Idade Média Portuguesa*

An introduction to prose medieval novels from Portugal. It provides a general view of those, with the

texts being quoted in its original language (which makes them significantly hard to read).

- (Edmond) Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*
- ✓ (Monica) Roy, *Egyptian Mythology for Kids and Teens*

This is a very simple book, as you can evidently infer from its title, but it is also a fairly good introduction to the myths and culture of Ancient Egypt.

- ✓ (Richard E.) Rubenstein, *Aristotle's Children: How Christians, Muslims, and Jews Rediscovered Ancient Wisdom and Illuminated the Middle Ages*

A simple book on how the writings and ideas of Aristotle were transmitted across time and ended up influencing our western culture.

- ✓ (Richard E.) Rubenstein, *When Jesus Became God: The Struggle to Define Christianity during the Last Days of Rome* \*

A half-fact, half-fiction, work about how Arianism ended up shaping Christianity, in particular our belief

that Jesus and God are one and the same figure. It is an easy read, even by a non-specialized public.

- ✓ (Miri) Rubin, *Mother of God: A History of the Virgin Mary* \*

A simple, and yet nonetheless interesting, book tracing the history and development of beliefs in Mary, Jesus' mother, from their origin to our days. It is a good introduction to the subject, but it also provides extensive bibliography for those who want to explore the topic even further.

- ✓ Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Book*

I was curious about this one after seeing the Disney movie that shares its name. Essentially, it is a collection of a few animal stories, what we can generally call fables, only three of which actually relate to Mowgli and his animal friends from the jungles of India. There's also some poetry at the end of each chapter.

- ✓ (Juan) Ruiz, *The Book of Good Love* \*

A poem from XIV century Spain, which contains many different kinds of content and sequences, all of them

related to the subject of love. For a general reader, perhaps the most notable element is the fact many small and pleasurable stories, some of them quite famous (like the mountain's which gave birth to a mouse) are included here and retold as part of the main plot.

- ✓ (Hernando) Ruiz de Alarcón, *Tratado de las supersticiones y costumbres gentilicias que hoy viven entre los indios naturales de esta Nueva España* \*

This book details some of the pagan stories and traditions which existed in New Spain, a part of Mexico, in the XVII century. It is particularly noteworthy because the author not only preserves what those traditions and prayers consisted in, but sometimes he even tells us under what conditions he obtained them, further enriching his compilation.

- (S.) Runciman, *The Last Byzantine Renaissance*
- ✓ (Jorg) Rupke, *Historicizing Religion: Varro's Antiquitates and History of Religion in the Late Roman Republic*



A research paper on Varro's role on the history of Roman Religion. It is way less interesting than the title and this succinct description may suggest.

- ✓ (Jeffrey Burton) Russell, *Inventing the Flat Earth – Columbus and Modern Historians* \*

This book attempts to explain where the idea of a Flat Earth really came from. Although the author achieves his goal, at some points the work is boring and possibly unfit for a general audience.

- ✓ (Mary S.) Rustad, *The Black Books of Elverum*

A compilation of two books with magical spells, seemingly found in the city of Elverum, in Norway. Those spells are typically very short and straight to the point, but they do preserve good examples of magic from the past, with some instances apparently going all the way back to the Middle Ages.

- ✓ (Jeffrey) Rusten, *Dicaearchus and the Tales from Euripides*

Discussing a potential authorship of the so-called *Tales from Euripides*, showing that Dicaearchus couldn't have truly written them, but that there were also good

reasons for such attribution.

✓ Rutilius Namatianus, *A Voyage Home*

Written in the V century of our era, this work depicts a voyage from Rome to Gaul. It is of some interest due to the fact the author reports on what he was seeing along the way.

✓ (Jay) Ruud, *Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature*\*

The title easily states what this one work is all about, but it should be noted that it is clearly not an extensive encyclopedia; although it covers many western books and authors, along with some from China, India and Japan, many other compositions from these same places and from elsewhere are also absent from the work. Despite that flaw, for each individual entry the author presents his bibliography, which is definitely very informative!

✓ (Viktor) Rydberg, *Teutonic Mythology* \*

An extremely detailed and deep work on the subject that gives it its title. This is perfect if you are looking for more information on particular aspects of Nordic Mythology, but more casual readers, or even ones who

are simply seeking an introduction to the subject, will definitely find this to be a very boring read. Essentially, it is a work only recommended for those who already seem to have an advanced knowledge of Nordic Mythology.



## 20- Section S

- ✓ (Gad) Saad, *The Parasitic Mind: How Infectious Ideas Are Killing Common Sense*

Quite an interesting work, about how a sort of collective insanity has been shaping the culture of Canada and the US in recent years.

- ✓ Saadi, *Bustan* \*

From the middle of the XIII century, this is essentially a compilation of arabic stories centred around ethics. In general they are very simple ones, but one definitely has to wonder about the potential non-fictional aspect of some of them, since at least one of them supposedly happened to the author himself.

- ✓ Saadi, *Gulistan* \*

Perhaps this can be considered as somewhat of a sequel to the above, containing over 200 short stories, along with significative maxims, proverbs, and other such similar content. They also contain small poems in each story, for which this work appears to be specially famous for.

✓ (Oliver) Sacks, *Awakenings*

Written on the author's own experiments with his patients experiencing "Encephalitis lethargica", the most significant element of this work is arguably the stories he presents of each patient, from how they first got to the hospital to what happened during and after they had tried the drug L-DOPA. Some of the stories are really sad, which only becomes worse if we realize they are all true and happened to real human beings.

✓ (Oliver) Sacks, *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat and Other Clinical Tales* \*

The stories behind some psychiatric cases, but presented alongside with more professional information. Although some of the cases appear to be interesting, the way they are presented here is far from pleasing, making the whole thing a lot less worth reading than it could have been.

✓ (Johannes de) Sacrobosco, *Treatise of the Sphere* \*

A succinct and arguably simple explanation of the Ptolemaic universe. The author quotes from a few

classical authors to support some of his ideas.

✓ (Anna T.) Sadlier, *The Wonders of Lourdes* \*

Translated from a French original, this work reports the supposed miracles of Lourdes, beginning with all the events which took place with Bernadette Soubirous, and ending with the reports of several other posterior miracles which took place in the area.

✓ (Bernardino de) Sahagun, *General History of the Things of New Spain* \*

A work in twelve volumes (plus annexes), of enormous cultural, anthropological and ethnographic value, in which the author extensively details all kinds of beliefs from south american people of the XVI century.

Information on their religion and myths seem to be spread all across the volumes, but e.g. the first one briefly presents their gods, the second contains local rites and rituals (along with some hymns to the deities), the third tells the reader about the origin of the gods and some myths related to them, et al. Some annexes to the main subject also present interesting views by the author, e.g. the first volume contains a treatise refuting that the local gods were ever divine

(instead praising the christian God as the only real and true deity), while the third extensively explains the local beliefs regarding an afterlife.

✓ (Antoine de) Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

This is a charmingly beautiful work, with the passage between the Prince and the Fox being specially noteworthy and significant. What is also specially relevant in this work is that it seems to contain a bit of a satirical element that goes all the way back to Ancient Comedy.

✓ (Benoît de) Sainte-Maure, *Roman de Troie*

Written in the XII century of our era, this is essentially a retelling of the Trojan War from a more human point of view. It was certainly inspired by both Dares' and Dictys' accounts, but it also ended up serving as a huge source for the many, many other poems on the same subject that later followed it.

If you are curious about it, why were other authors relying on these resources, instead of the Homeric Poems? Essentially, because they assumed Homer to be a liar (as both Dares and Dictys, among other sources, reported), but also since the original (Greek)



texts were not available in Western Europe at that same period of time.

✓ (P.) Saintyves, *Les saints successeurs des dieux*

A very interesting book on the influence pagan gods had on all aspects of Christianity's own saints. The author also provides plenty of valuable examples and stories, ones that may inspire readers to start their own exploration of the subject. The "catch", if one may call it so? Well, this book is apparently only available in its original French edition.

✓ (P.) Saintyves, *Saint Christophe: Successeur d'Anubis, d'Hermès et d'Héraclès*

A small book, exploring the relationship between Saint Christopher (i.e. the version of the saint frequently surnamed "Cynocephalus"), and some of its cultural predecessors.

✓ Sallustius, *On the gods and the world*

This is a kind of catechism for IV century AD pagan religions, written by an author who was supposedly a friend of Julian the Apostate. It contains a lot of philosophical information, along with the best ways to

interpret myths. It deserves to be read essentially for the fact it preserves an evolution of Paganism, attempting to counter the influence Christianity was then having in the Roman Empire.

✓ (Colin) Salter, *100 Books that changed the world*  
 In concept this should have been an interesting book, but the authors are too western-centric, included too many books which did not really change the world (despite their interest in some specific western circles), and devote too few pages to each individual work, barely telling us about their content. When the last book included is from 2014, it seems more like a publicity stunt than a work which truly change the world – and, in my opinion, to place the likes of *Maus*, Dante's *Divine Comedy* and *The Feminine Mystique* in the exact same listing is absurd; regardless of how our preferences go, it is too arguable that they ever changed the world as much as, let's say, Darwin's famous work.

✓ Salvian, *On the judgement of God*  
 Written in the fifth century of our era, this is an apology for Christianity similar to the *City of God*, but

with an interesting twist – the fall of the Roman Empire is attributed not only to those who worshipped the pagan gods, but also to a decay of the religious practises of those who already worshipped the God of Christians.

- ✓ (Benjamin) Sammons, *Device and Composition in the Greek Epic Cycle*

This title is certainly misleading, as the work focuses exclusively on the Trojan Cycle. Besides, it is crowded with “castles in the air”, with suppositions, some of them too imaginative, instead of being based in actual facts. I disliked it, overall, but if I had to say something good about it, well, at the end of this work you can find some translations to English of Proclus’ resume of the Trojan Cycle.

- ✓ (Lisa) Sanders, *Diagnosis: Solving the Most Baffling Medical Mysteries* \*

Somewhat of a sequel to the book below, this one focuses more on the establishment of uncommon diagnoses and less about the storytelling in itself. I didn’t like it as much, but may doctors are a more intended audience.

- ✓ (Lisa) Sanders, *Every Patient Tells a Story: Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis*

A very interesting non-fiction work about medical diagnosis, how they are made and how often problems may come out during the process. Even if you know little or nothing about the whole subject, this work is written in a pleasing way and is quite informative about said subjects.

- ✓ (Margaret H.) Sanger, *Family Limitation*

Pretty much a basic manual, from the early XX century, teaching women how not to get pregnant. It is a very simple work, but it does mention some myths around the whole subject.

- ✓ (Margaret H.) Sanger, *What Every Girl Should Know*

Also from the early XX century, this is a manual of sexuality for young women. It is written very simply, even containing some wonderful passages on love, and most of what it says still apply today.

- ✓ (Margaret H.) Sanger, *What Every Mother*

### *Should Know*

A manual from the early XX century, basically telling mothers how they can best introduce their children to the essential aspects of human sexuality.

✓ Sankardev, *Gunamala*

A very simplified version of the *Bhagavata Purana*, which essentially retells the main events of the life of Krishna.

• (R.) Santiago, *La Fusión de dos mitos tebanos*

✓ (Xico) Santos, *Vil - A Tragédia de Diogo Alves*

A comic book presenting the story of Diogo Alves, best known in Portugal as the "Aqueduct Killer". It presents a heavily fictionalized version of the whole story, and the last pages even admit they did not intend to make a realistic portrayal of the story.

✓ Sappho, Fragments

Rayor's edition from 2014 features about 264 fragments of Sappho's poetry. Although some of them contain mythological references, overall they also tend to be too fragmentary to provide a noteworthy access

to the stories as the original poet knew them.

- (António José) Saraiva, *A épica medieval portuguesa*
- (António José) Saraiva, *História da Literatura Portuguesa (8a Edição)*
- ✓ (José Hermano) Saraiva, *Ditos Portugueses Dignos de Memória* \*

Edited by this famous professor, this book contains about 1480 short non-fictional stories from the time of Portugal's Golden Age. Most of them are funny, and the editor even provides the context, and/or explanations, necessary for the reader to fully understand what they are being presented.

- (José Hermano) Saraiva, *Portugal: A Companion History*
- ✓ (José Hermano) Saraiva, *Vida Ignorada de Camões – Uma História que o Tempo Censurou\**

In this work, the noted historian from Portugal tries to reconstruct the full life of the poet Camões. Although it is not always clear how the author here knows X or Y,

based on his overwhelming knowledge I have to believe this must be one of the most faithful versions of said poet's life. The only problem I had with the book is that, in the edition I had access to it, the font was just too small, making it very difficult to read the whole thing, which I really wanted to do.

- (Arnaldo) Saraiva, *De Espanha nem bom vento...*
- ✓ (José) Saramago, *Evangelho Segundo Jesus Cristo*

Written and read in Portuguese (but available in English translations), this book presents a somewhat unusual fictional depiction of the gospels, with Jesus here being the central figure and the narrator. And yes, this was originally a problematic work for Christians, although it was actually written just a few decades ago.

- ✓ (Jeraldine) Saunders, *The Love Boats*

Best known as the book which inspired *The Love Boat* show, this basically reports the personal experiences a cruise director had on her job. Perhaps a must-read if

you're interested in cruises or considering going into one, I'd say.

- ✓ (Mike) Sauve, *Who Authored the John Titor Legend?*

This book explores the idea that if the whole John Titor story was a mere legend, who was actually behind it. The author goes through all the most significant possibilities and evaluates them briefly, in what is essentially a 100-page book.

- ✓ (Railey Jane) Savage, *A Century of Swindlers: Ponzi Schemes, Con Men, and Fraudsters*

A history of seemingly the most famous or significant swindles connected with the USA between 1850 and 1950. The author provides an extensive history for all of them, along with some related images.

- ✓ (Boria) Sax, *The Mythical Zoo: An Encyclopedia of Animals in World Myth, Legend, & Literature*

The title says it well for this one, it is basically an encyclopedia presenting the main animals featured in myths and legends from all over the world, with the author very briefly retelling their respective stories. It



features many images, and even some bibliography for each section.

✓ (Jaya) Saxena, *Basic Witches* \*

Blargh! This is clearly a book for younger women, to play "witch" by adapting the whole concept to a set of circumstances that teenagers have to face. Although it contains some fairly simple historical sequences here and there, overall this is far from a good book, as it simply sells old material under the guise of a whole new cover.

✓ Saxo Grammaticus, *Gesta Danorum* \*

A mythical and historical account of the Danes, written in the XII century. The first nine books are specially interesting, as they contain mythological episodes and semi-legendary ones, such as the story which inspired Shakespeare's own *Hamlet* play.

✓ (Peter) Schafer, *Jesus in the Talmud* \*

A book which does exactly what its title promises, essentially presenting all references, both direct and indirect, to Jesus in the *Talmud*.

- (Philip) Schaff, *The Seven Ecumenical Councils*\*
- ✓ (Patrick) Schilithler, *Voces Magicae: o Poder das Palavras nos Papiros Gregos Mágicos* \*

Written in Brazilian Portuguese, this Master thesis focuses essentially on the specifics of *voces magicae* in Greek Magical Papyrii. It is not a very interesting work, unless you already know much about this particular subject and are currently looking to learn even more.

- (F.) Schironi, *Greek Commentaries*
- ✓ (Phyllis V.) Schlemmer, *Planet of Choice: Essential Briefings from Deep Space*

In this work a supposed medium got messages from a planet far away, ones about the most varied topics. Although there are a few interesting bits here and there, overall it is filled with absurdities in line with the *Ancient Aliens* show.

- ✓ (Henry) Schliemann, *Troy and its remains*
- If you're reading through these lines as a student of Classics, chances are that you already know who Schliemann is and how he supposedly found the

location of the ancient, and supposedly mythical, city of Troy. In this work he tells us more about all that, from a first person perspective.

- ✓ (Eric) Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation: What the All-American Meal is Doing to the World*

I expected to find a history of fast food in this book, but instead it talks about how that industry evolved across the years, and what such “evolution” is doing to restaurants and their consumers. I was never much of a consumer of their products, but I do not think I will ever go to McDonald’s again after having read this.

- ✓ (Steven Jay) Schneider, *1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die* \*

One of those books in which the title says pretty much what it contains, i.e. it’s a compilation of what seem to be the most significative movies from all over the world. I did not check if it literally contains 1001 entries, but for each movie presented here you’re given basic information about it, notably the essentials of its plot and what makes it particularly noteworthy.

- ✓ (Gershom) Scholem, *Zohar, the Book of*

*Splendor: Basic Readings from the Kabbalah*

This simple work introduces the Zohar and features some brief selected passages from it. It is perhaps best used as an introduction to the whole subject, if you know nothing about it yet.

- (Franz Xaver von) Schonwerth, *The Turnip Princess and Other Newly Discovered Fairy Tales*\*
- (Paul) Schubert, *Thersite et Penthésilée dans la "Suite d'Homère" de Quintus de Smyrne*
- ✓ (Howard) Schwartz, *Lilith's Cave: Jewish Tales of the Supernatural* \*

A compilation of tales, some of them oral, with significant supernatural elements related to Judaism. The author also provides, near the end of the book, some brief commentary on these tales.

- ✓ (Ludwig) Schwennhagen, *Antiga História do Brasil*

This curious book argues that Brazil was colonized by ancient civilizations from Europe many centuries before the Portuguese first got there. It is undoubtedly

a curious thesis, which the author supports through almost no evidence barring some occasional coincidence in words and the existence of some places in the country which were otherwise hard to explain.

- ✓ (Carla) Scilabra, *When Apollo tasted sushi for the first time. Early examples of the reception of Classics in Japanese comics*

An unusual paper on the usage of Classical Tradition in the early manga works of Osamu Tezuka, Go Nagai and Hideo Azuma.

- ✓ (Devin) Scillian, *Johnny Kaw – A Tall Tale*  
A recent retelling of the Johnny Kaw “legend”, a part of American fakelore. This is clearly a work for children, with little text and some pretty images all throughout.

- ✓ (Bruce) Scivally, *Billion Dollar Batman: A History of the Caped Crusader on Film and Television from 10c Comic Book to Global Icon* \*

This is an extremely detailed book telling the background and history behind Batman’s movies and shows. If you are looking for information on them you’ll likely find it here, but it should also be noted

that the work is way, way too detailed for casual readers. In fact, while reading the chapter on the old TV show from the 60s, I even found myself thinking "sure, this is interesting, but when does it end?!" As such, if you're looking for a casual, perhaps even fun, book about Batman's history, this is likely not it.

✓ (Reginald) Scot, *The Discoverie of Witchcraft* \*

If you can read XVI century English easily, this is an unusual book attempting to prove that witchcraft and magic did not really exist, which was an unusual idea at the time, but which the author expertly defends here. In order to prove so, the author quotes from hundreds of authorities, including the biblical texts and many classical authors. Besides, he provides plenty of real-life stories, along with detailed information on magical rituals and beliefs, both of which may prove particularly useful for those who are interested in studying those subjects, and how they developed and evolved across the centuries.

✓ (Pseudo-)Scylax, *Periplus*

This text presents a circumnavigation around the course of the Mediterranean Sea, essentially stating

the name of contiguous cities and infrequently providing very small pieces of information on each of them, such as the presence of temples or docks (among others).

- ✓ Secretariado Nacional da Informação, *Turismo Exige Bom Serviço de Mesa*

This short document from mid-XX century Portugal basically explains how to properly serve a table at a restaurant. It has some intriguing drawings, some a bit funny.

- ✓ (Kyoden) Seiseisai, *The Spinning Wheel and the Nine-Tailed Fox*

A story in which a famous nine-tailed fox comes back to life in order to avenge the relatives of the man who once killed her.

- ✓ (Toriyama) Sekien, *A Horde of Haunted Housewares*

The fourth – and final volume – in the author's series about *yokai*, the creatures in this specific volume appear to come essentially from the author's own imagination (instead of Japanese myths and legends),

but they are nonetheless beautifully drawn.

- ✓ (Toriyama) Sekien, *More of the Demon Horde from Past and Present*

The third in the author's series about *yokai*. It presents even more creatures.

- ✓ (Toriyama) Sekien, *The Illustrated Demon Horde from Past and Present, Continued*

The second in the author's series about *yokai*. It presents a few more creatures.

- ✓ (Toriyama) Sekien, *The Illustrated Demon Horde's Night Parade*

The first in the author's series about *yokai* (which can essentially be defined as mythological beings from Japan). It contains a beautiful drawing for each creature and, sometimes, also a bit of information related to it.

- ✓ (Charles) Sellers, *Tales from the Lands of Nuts and Grapes*

This is a book on traditional stories from Portugal and Spain, but I have no clue on where the "nuts and



grapes” actually fit in. Oddly enough, none of the stories presented here seem to be known in Portugal, making it likely that either the author made them up, or simply collected them in such an obscure place that nobody ever revisited it. The second option seems more likely, since they do contain elements frequently present in many other local stories.

✓ (Maurice) Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are*  
A children’s book with beautiful pictures, somewhat of a modern-age fairy tale about a boy and some monsters.

✓ Seneca the Elder, *Controversies* \*

Presents a collection of difficult Roman Law cases, along with many opinions of several authors (most of them now lost) on how to deal with each of them. I have a vague idea that some of them came, or were inspired, by myths.

✓ Seneca the Younger, *Apocolocyntosis*  
A satirical and mythological account of the deification (and subsequent “un-deification”?) of the Roman Emperor Claudius.

✓ Seneca the Younger, *Agamemnon*

A tragedy based on the part of the myth in which Agamemnon finally gets back home after the Trojan War. It deserves to be mentioned not due to the play itself, but because this author included his own philosophical ideas in the work.

• Seneca the Younger, *Moral Epistles*<sup>25</sup>

1, 3-4, 6-10, 12-13, 15, 17-20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 34-35, 38-43, 47-54, 56-59, 61-63, 68, 71-72, 77, 80-82, 86-87, 92.

✓ Seneca the Younger, *Medea*

A tragedy on the final part of the myth of Medea. Yes,

---

25 Although Seneca the Younger's *Moral Epistles* are undoubtedly important for their philosophical content, I always felt they don't have that much relevant information for the objectives currently at hand. So, I here only present the number of the epistles which I've read more directly, and which feature information specially profitable for our own lives.

here she also kills her offspring, as it is common in most of the modern versions of the story.

✓ Seneca the Younger, *Oedipus*

This play approaches Oedipus' myth in a rather unusual way – it starts by presenting the hero as already married. As the tragedy goes on, he discovers that he has indeed already killed his father, and is currently married to his real mother. Incapable of living as before, he then tears out his eyes.

• Seneca the Younger, *On Benefits*

✓ Seneca the Younger, *Trojan Women*

Essentially fusing the plots of Euripides' *Trojan Women* and *Hecuba* into a single tragedy.

✓ (P.) Senter, *Snake to Monster: Conrad Gessner's Schlangenbuch and the Evolution of the Dragon in the Literature of Natural History* \*

A very interesting research paper on how the characteristics of the creatures named "dragons" evolved across time, from their subtle references in the Homeric Poems up to the time of Conrad Gessner,

in the XVI century AD.

✓      *Servius, Commentary on Virgil's Aeneid*

Although this is not a very fun book to read, if read alongside with Virgil's own *Aeneid* people are then able to further and better understand that Roman epic poem. In itself, this book's most notable feature is that it occasionally retells some of the myths alluded to in Virgil's poem, a few of which appear to be significantly obscure nowadays.

✓      *Servius, Commentary on Virgil's Eclogues*

Seemingly also part of the work above, this presents an almost line-by-line commentary to this work of Virgil. The author occasionally alludes to myths, but in some cases actually retells them, including a small number which, apparently, have not reached us in any other sources.

✓      *Servius, Commentary on Virgil's Georgics*

Similar to the works above, and apparently part of a continuum in the original form, this again this presents an almost line-by-line commentary to this work of Virgil. Although the author alludes to some myths, I

did not feel they're as unique here as in the previous work.

- ✓ (Greg) Sestero, *The Disaster Artist: My Life Inside The Room, the Greatest Bad Movie Ever Made*

This is a book about Tommy Wiseau and the making of *The Room* movie. It has a very dualistic nature, in the sense that the author goes back and forth between the two main topics, i.e. how he met Wiseau and how their relationship evolved, and how the making of the movie in itself went. It is a bit confusing at times, with the topic generally changing, back and forth, from one chapter to the other, but if you're familiar with the strange movie, or you wonder about Wiseau's mysterious character, you'll likely enjoy this.

- ✓ (A.) Severyns, *Recherches sur la "Chrestomathie" de Proclus*

Despite being only available in French, this work presents almost everything you'd want to know about Proclus' *Chrestomathy*, which is in itself an essential source for the study of the Epic Cycle.

- Sextus Empiricus, *Against the Professors* \*

- ✓ (J.) Seznec, *The Survival of the Pagan Gods* \*

This wonderful work presents the many ways in which the gods of Ancient Greece and Rome survived the rise of Christianity, and how they're still present in our culture even today.

- ✓ Shantideva, *Bodhisattvacaryavatara* \*

A summary of buddhist beliefs compiled in verse in the VIII century.

- ✓ (H. A.) Shapiro, *Myth Into Art: Poet and Painter in Classical Greece*

Art and literature from Ancient Greece are connected in this work, which quotes from primary sources and the interlinks those portrayals with the ones we can see in vases. It is a good work for those who want to be introduced to myth and its physical portrayal, since the author takes things slow and usually keeps it basic and simple.

- ✓ (Satya Vrat) Shastri, *Ramayana in Southeast Asia, Volume I: Ramakien*

Essentially an introduction to the *Ramakien*, along with a significant comparison among the most notable features of this epic and the *Ramayana*. Although I expected much more from this work – for example, it never extensively describes the full plot of the *Ramakien* – I must openly praise the fact that it is adorned with many images from Thailand portraying characters and scenes from the epic.

✓ (William) Shatner, *Star Trek Memories*

I came across this book by pure accident, while searching for one on a different show. Basically, here Shatner, along with some of his colleagues, recall the adventures involved in the making of the original “Star Trek” TV show. Perhaps a bit unexpectedly, the book ends with the admission that the author may not have always been a very nice person to his colleagues, to the point one of them even refused to talk to him as part of the research for this book.

✓ (William) Shatner, *Star Trek Movie Memories*

A sequel to the above, this one focusing on the collective memories of the “Star Trek” movies in which the author participated. The quality of both books is

more or less the same, but I felt that other participating sources were quoted more often, and also longer, in this one, making the whole story a lot less compelling.

- ✓ (Robert) Sheaffer, *Bad UFOs: Critical Thinking about UFO Claims*

In spite of its name, this book simply presents many UFO-related cases and succinctly shows they were not real at all. It is written in a simple but boring way, and ultimately I felt that a different author could have approached the same subject much better.

- ✓ (Sharon Sigmond) Shebar, *The Bell Witch*

A retelling of the "Bell Witch" legend for younger people, with drawings, and a slightly adapted version of the whole thing. Overall it tells the story, but does change it a bit here and there.

- ✓ (Mary) Shelley, *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*

I did not particularly enjoy this novel, but it was intriguing to notice how different from the movies the original story is. The work itself does suggest many of



the topics later reused for the movies, but it is also a very different work, of a man who manages to create life, but later ends up seriously regretting his previous creations.

- ✓ (Richard) Shenkman, *Legends, Lies & Cherished Myths of American History*

This work proposes to dispel – and, less often, confirm – some of the non-factual elements of American History. Although it does exactly that, the sources quoted by the author are few and far between, and often the sources for a specific piece of information are left unknown.

- ✓ (Richard) Shenkman, *Legends, Lies & Cherished Myths of World History* \*

Apparently a sequel to the book above, this one focuses on non-factual elements of World History, but does so in a much more biased way and with even less support from literary sources. Even for teens, this book may be overly simplistic, frequently incorrect, and also quite disappointing.

- ✓ (Josepha) Sherman, *Storytelling: An*

*Encyclopedia of Mythology and Folklore* \*

This is a fairly good encyclopedia on the topics of myths and folklore, no contest there, with every entry containing some basic bibliography on it. However, one should be careful while using it, since it does contain some factual mistakes here and there. Besides, it is a bit strange on the degree of development it gives to its articles, with some of them feature multiple pages on a single topic, while others just have a single article for a much broader topic. The fact it contains the retelling of some stories at the end is amusing, but it's not too clear why those specific ones were picked.

- ✓ (Michael) Shermer, *Why People Believe Weird Things: Pseudoscience, Superstition, and Other Confusions of Our Time* \*

This book explores topics such as the belief in Aliens, UFOs and Holocaust Denials. Although it has some interesting moments, I was expecting it to cover older superstitions too (such as why people knock on wood three times). Unless you expect explanations regarding just the newest kinds of strange beliefs, this will probably end up disappointing you too.

✓ Shi Nai'an, *Water Margin* \*

One of the Four Classical Novels of China, this one tells how across time 108 people banded together and later entered many battles. The story begins by telling some of their individual tales, and evolves to present how the bonds of friendship united them towards a common goal, and what later happened to it. The novel has some magical elements, but they're generally rare and secondary.

✓ (Avigdor) Shinan, *From Gods to God: How the Bible Debunked, Suppressed, or Changed Ancient Myths and Legends*

A very interesting book on how some myths and legends from the Old Testament may have been altered across time. Although it requires at least some knowledge of the biblical texts, the information it adds to them is certainly thought-provoking, and will leave you wondering in what other ways the original stories may have looked like.

✓ Shirley Temple Black, *Child Star: An Autobiography*

The autobiography of the once-famous child movie

star, I found it pleasing because the plot starts at the very beginning and advances further in a very detailed way, with the future author recalling, almost step by step, her many adventures. However, the book becomes less detailed as she grows older, perhaps because she may have supposed that most readers would not be as interested in that part.

- ✓ (David) Shoemaker, *The Squared Circle: Life, Death and Professional Wrestling*

A succinct history of wrestling in the US. However, what makes it noteworthy is the fact it contains many small chapters reporting the stories of some of its most relevant characters.

- ✓ (Robert) Shorrock, *The Myth of Paganism: Nonnus, Dionysus and the World of Late Antiquity*

Essentially, this focuses on the cultural background and connection between Nonnus' two works, and how they seemingly interact with each other. It gives you some room for thinking, particularly on whether this (potential) interaction was actually the author's original intention, or just something alike of a mere

coincidence.

- ✓ (Marjorie) Shostak, *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*

At first, I did not expect much from this book.

However, as I kept on reading through it, I found it to be a deeply fascinating one, reporting in a first person how the lives in this tribe of Africa were, and how much they contrast with our own. It even alludes, here and there, to a few local myths and legends, but with one exception, on the origin of the sex act, the author does not report those in a complete form.

- ✓ (Marjorie) Shostak, *Return to Nisa*

A sequel to the work above, where the author revisits Nisa and the world she herself left behind. It contains some more stories related to the above, but it also raises some significant concerns related to anthropological methods and their ultimate outcomes, such as whether true friendship, in our western sense of the word, can ever rise between the scholar and the people they're studying.

- ✓ (Karl P. N.) Shuker, *The Beasts That Hide From*

*Man: Seeking the World's Last Undiscovered Animals* \*

A work on Cryptozoology, composed by a compilation of articles from this author. Its competitive advantage is likely the fact its author only focuses on topics that aren't very famous, plus he presents all his sources in a simple and direct way.

✓ (Karl P. N.) Shuker, *Mirabilis: A Carnival of Cryptozoology and Unnatural History*

This one is a compilation of many usually-short reports of creatures related to Cryptozoology, but of the more obscure kind. It is very easy to read.

✓ Sidonius Apollinaris, *Carmina*

Although the author was a V century christian, only one of the poems contained here is related to topics from that religion. The remaining ones contain many mythological and historical references, with the ninth one being particularly worth mentioning, as it contains several sum-ups of myths and references to authors he seemed to consider specially important. However, it should be noted his mythological references are very limited, and he repeats the same ones again and

again, e.g. the Phoenix is just associated with cinnamon multiple times.

✓ (Javier) Sierra, *La España Extraña*

This work presents some strange occurrences which took place in Spain and which are all somehow related to Christianity, from appearances of the Virgin Mary, all the way to mysterious travels, miraculous events, etc. It is written in a very simple way, and at the end it even features maps presenting some places of significant importance to the whole subject.

✓ (Carl) Sifakis, *Hoaxes and Scams: A Compendium of Deceptions, Ruses and Swindles*

Essentially an encyclopedia of hoaxes and scams, covering not only famous incidents and characters of the past, but also multiple instances that still occur fairly frequently in our day and age (e.g. carnival scams, car repair ones). I found it easy to read and quite informative.

✓ Silius Italicus, *Punica*

The longest extant epic poem in Latin, its subject being the second Punic War. It intertwines historical

facts with many mythological accounts, but it should be mentioned that some of the myths preserved here come from purely Roman sources, such as the extended tale of Anna, Dido of Carthage's sister.

- ✓ (António José da) Silva (?), *As Obras do Diabinho da Mão Furada*

Of dubious authorship, this XVIII century work presents a knight being accompanied by a small devil in his adventures. Although the concept is interesting, the plot in itself is not so noteworthy.

- ✓ (António José da) Silva (?), *Entremez intitulado, O grande governador da Ilha dos Lagartos*

A short kind of comedy, based on the second book of Don Quixote, about justice and how Sancho Panza once administered it in the island he took care of.

- ✓ (Inocencio Francisco da) Silva, *Diccionario Bibliographico Portuguez* \*

With over a dozen volumes, which add information to the initial seven, this dictionary presents the works published in Portugal until the XIX century. For each author, the compiler tells which works that person



composed, and sometimes even reports their content in a succinct way.

- ✓ (Joaquim Possidonio Narciso) Silva, *Noções elementares de archeologia*

Despite its name, this is essentially a work with notions of Architecture. Yes, the chapter on Pre-history and the time of the Romans does present an introduction to their respective Archaeology, but the remaining ones focus solely on buildings. It does contain beautiful engravings, though.

- ✓ (John of Alta) Silva, *Dolopathos*

A medieval work about a fictional king from Roman times whose wise son, Lucinius, is eventually accused of having tried to rape his father's new wife. However, this part is essentially just a frame story to present seven others, of which the most famous is possibly the beginning of the legend known under as the "Knight of the Swan". At the end, in another notable sequence, Lucinius ends up converting to Christianity, after – as a pagan – being succinctly presented all the main ideas behind this religion.

- ✓ (Manuel Eugénio F.) Silva, *Toponímia na Freguesia de Estoril: Os Nossos Arruamentos* \*

This book supposedly would present the origins of many toponyms around the area of Estoril, in Portugal. The idea, in itself, fascinated me, but when I finally got to read it, not only does it say nothing about the origins of some of the most obscure names (e.g. "Watts John Garland"), but it also provides some conflicting origins for some places, at one point stating that the "Santa Rita" valley comes from a man who once had a farm on location – which makes perfect sense – and at another providing an origin for the same place through the saint sharing that name.

- ✓ Silva Pinto, *Santos Portuguezes*

In one sense, this book is noteworthy for the fact it retells, in a very simply way, the lives of some saints who have some kind of relationship with Portugal. However, on the other side of the coin, the author is frequently way too succinct to be informative enough, and he occasionally jokes about some of the elements present in these stories. As such, whether this is a good or a bad book is quite debatable, given the way in which it treats the whole subject at hand – if

nothing else, at least he occasionally mentions his sources by name, which is quite helpful if you want to learn more about one specific figure.

✓ Silva Pinto, *S. Frei Gil*

Some historical notes on “Frei Gil”, perhaps best known as sort of a Faust from Portugal. The work is written in a very boring way, and it is doubtful that you will find it useful even if you want to learn more about this historical figure.

✓ António de Vasconcelos, *Lenda de Inês de Castro*

Although a small book, it briefly – but very effectively – presents some of the facts and legends involved with the life and death of Inês de Castro.

✓ Simão de Vasconcelos, *Notícias Necessárias e Curiosas da Cousas do Brasil*

Written in the XVII century, this work presents many facts from Brazil in the first centuries of its history. It does preserve, here and there, a few stories and legends related to the country and its natives, but it also deserves to be noted for the curious fact that its

natives seemingly were tricking the Portuguese with fake stories about subjects they wanted to hear, such as Saint Thomas having first brought Christianity to this country after an old flood.

- ✓ (Robert) Simms, *Brill's Companion to Prequels, Sequels, and Retellings of Classical Epic* \*

The title almost says it all when it comes to this specific book, but it is also somewhat misleading, since this work does not present all prequels, sequels and retellings (which would be quite a hard task), but only a few of the extant ones, coming from the Antiquity, the Middle Ages, and beyond.

- ✓ (Carlota) Simões, *Visto de Coimbra – O Colégio de Jesus Entre Portugal e o Mundo* \*

Despite its original name, this work focuses on many different areas related to the Jesuits, not all of them necessarily connected with Coimbra. It is a collection of research papers, the most interesting for me being one regarding some local findings in Coimbra (written by one of my professors!), and one about the religion of Kongo a few centuries ago.

✓ (Erika) Simon, *The Religion of the Etruscans* \*

An introductory work on the subject detailed in its title, where the authors tend to explain what we can still now know about the Etruscan religion. It also has two appendices at the end, with the translation of some texts very relevant to the whole subject.

✓ Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

This is a truly interesting book, which talks about how society, in an historical sense but also nowadays, shapes women, their wishes and their lives. It definitely gave me plenty of food for thought. I honestly did not think I would learn so much from this book as I did, and I was more than pleasantly surprised.

✓ (O. J.) Simpson, *If I Did It*

This book deserves a mention here due to how it fuses fact and fiction. For most of its pages it is a (supposedly real, one would assume) account of O. J. Simpson's relationship with Nicole Brown, but when it comes to the night of her murder, the author does a really strange deviation and tells the reader what could have happened if he had indeed killed her. It's a really,

really strange moment, almost dream-like, but it shows how almost every story in this world may fuse both fact and fiction in a way that is not always exactly clear.

- (Simon) Sinek, *Leaders Eat Last: Why Some Teams Pull Together and Others Don't*
- ✓ (Margaret) Singer, *Crazy Therapies: What Are They? Do They Work?*

A bit of an interesting work about unusual therapies, which the author briefly presents and shows why they don't really work. Certainly interesting if you're seeing, or considering seeing, some kind of mental health specialist.

- ✓ (Esther) Singleton, *Greatest Wonders of the World: As Seen and Described by Famous Writers* \*

A compilation of how multiple famous writers from around the world described some of the world's most notable natural wonders. Each chapter contains at least one image from each place, something that may have been important back in a time in which

representations of these places were not so widely available.

- ✓ (Esther) Singleton, *Historic Buildings: As Seen and Described by Famous Writers* \*

Similar to the work above, this one presents images of and describes buildings such as the Tower of Belém (in Belém, Portugal), the Colosseum of Rome, etc.

- ✓ (Esther) Singleton, *Historic Buildings of America: As Seen and Described by Famous Writers* \*

Like the ones above, this work presents photos of some significant buildings from North America along with the description they made of them.

- ✓ (Adam) Sisman, *The World's Most Incredible Stories: The Best of Fortean Times* \*

A book of fortean news, basically small sections from newspapers alluding to very unusual occurrences. Some are interesting, others not so much, but at least the author/compiler provides references to the original news articles too.

- ✓ (Janet) Sitchin, *The Anunnaki Chronicles: A Zecharia Sitchin Reader* \*

Following from the works of Zecharia Sitchin, this one essentially recaps his ideas through quotations from his other books and previously unreleased documents, further complemented with comments from one of his nieces. It is perhaps a good book to read if you want to know what Sitchin's thought and ideas were all about.

- ✓ (Zecharia) Sitchin, *The 12th Planet*

Apparently, this is the book that popularized the idea that our gods actually came from another planet and intervened to create mankind here. In itself, it is well written and presents a compelling case for the author's thesis, but I also felt the author misrepresents some elements of his evidence to fit the version of the story that he wants to defend.

- ✓ (Charles Montgomery) Skinner, *Myths and Legends Beyond Our Borders* \*

This book contains stories from beyond the USA's borders, i.e. from Canada and Mexico. Yes, some of them are indeed myths and legends, but others are



perhaps best defined as stories or information of an anthropological nature, coming from both those countries.

- ✓ (Charles Montgomery) Skinner, *Myths and Legends of Flowers, Trees, Fruits and Plants* \*

For each entry of his book, the author provides a few myths and legends from around the world about it. They are generally not very long or complete, but they do provide some intriguing lore, if this is a topic that interests you.

- ✓ (Charles Montgomery) Skinner, *Myths And Legends of Our Own Land* \*

A compilation of some local myths and legends from the USA, written at the end of the XIX century. These are not the most famous ones from that country, but the kind of stories you'd likely only know if you lived nearby and heard it from other locals. It can definitely be an interesting read if you are familiar with the places its refers to.

- ✓ (Stephen) Skinner, *The Grimoire of Saint Cyprian: Clavis Inferni*

This small book, of approximately 100 pages, features some contextual introduction and a translation of the magical summoning ritual known as *Clavis Inferni*. It also contains extensive images of the original manuscript, presented before the translation (and, perhaps even more important, explanation) of their content.

- ✓ (Richard W.) Slatta, *Mythical West: An Encyclopedia of Legend, Lore, and Popular Culture* \*

The title pretty much sums up what this work is all about, Western stories from the US, but some of them appear to be a bit out of place, e.g. entries on Bigfoot and Roswell, but not on other subjects directly related to these two.

- (Ineke) Sluiter, *Tzetzes on a mini thesis in Homer. The Epirrhêmata Thetika*
- ✓ (Edward) Smedley, *The Occult Sciences: Sketches of Traditions and Superstitions of Past Times, and the Marvels of the Present Day* \*

Essentially, this book from the mid-XIX century reports

on occult traditions from its own time, their cultural background, and adds to it not only relevant tales from the distant past, but also some which took place all across the ages. It has some inaccuracies here and there, and some sections are a bit boring in the way they're structured, but if you're interested in what the Victorians thought about the occult, this may certainly interest you.

- ✓ (D. M.) Smith, *Reconstructing the lost prequels to Homer's Iliad: The Cypria* \*

In theory this could be an interesting book, but instead it is just a very basic read. All the author does is copying the sum-ups from Proclus and complementing the information provided by them with some quotes from several different sources from the Antiquity, at one point even quoting an entire tragedy... a strategy which does not really work, since those sources come from very different periods of time. This is definitely a passable work.

- ✓ (E. Boyd) Smith, *The Story of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith*

Apparently written for older children, or maybe teens,

this book essentially presents the complete story of Pocahontas and John Smith from their beginning to the very end, and complements it with an image for each section.

- ✓ (George) Smith, *The Chaldean Account of Genesis*

This book explores some of the potential relationships between the biblical account of Genesis and similar episodes contained in cuneiform tablets. Although the author accomplishes this main goal, he also talks about several other myths unrelated to the Genesis, which he gathered from the same tablets and which he presents here in English translation. Ultimately, at the end one is left wondering about some key aspects of this potential relationship, particularly whether there is actually a real connection between the two accounts and, if so, exactly how further it truly extended.

- ✓ (Mark S.) Smith, *The Early History of God: Yahweh and the Other Deities in Ancient Israel*

This work shows how our portrayal of "God", in the Christian sense, was influenced by characteristics and aspects of other deities from old times, such as El,

Yahweh, Asherah, Baal, etc. It is definitely intriguing, but it was also written in a way that requires some significant previous knowledge of the topics at hand.

- ✓ (Mark S.) Smith, *The Origins of Biblical Monotheism: Israel's Polytheistic Background and the Ugaritic Texts*

This work begins with the information obtained from Ugaritic texts and shows how such beliefs evolved in order to generate the montheism we have in the Old Testament today. It is not a book fit for everyone, it definitely requires extensive knowledge of said biblical texts and also myths and legends from long, long ago, such as those of Baal.

- ✓ (Mark S.) Smith, *Stories from Ancient Canaan*  
A book fit for non-specialists, which briefly introduces the myths and legends from Ancient Canaan, presenting their main intervenors and translating the main extant legends, with the missing parts of the stories being complemented with some commentary and explanation from the two authors.

- ✓ (Paula) Smith, *A Trekkie's Tale*

A very short tale, first published in 1973, in which a girl named "Mary Sue" joins *Star Trek's Enterprise*. It is less than a A4 page long, but it is famous for popularizing the concept that nowadays goes under the heroine's name.

✓ (Richard) Snow, *Disney's Land*

A history of Disneyland, Walt Disney's very first park, from the owner's beginners up to his death. The book does provide a lot of information, but I also felt that in some chapters it also left many things aside, in a way producing a tantalizing description of some events, but without going much further with them.

- (Joaquina) Soares, *Os Hipogeus Pré-Históricos da Quinta do Anjo (Palmela) e as Economias do Simbólico*

✓ (Maria Micaela) Soares, *Saloios de Cascais* \*

This book preserves many cultural remains from the past of the region of Cascais, in Portugal. Particularly noteworthy are the chapters regarding old songs, and the (small) one on local legends.

- (Nair Castro) Soares, *A Tragédia do Príncipe João (1554) de Diogo de Teive, primeiro dramaturgo neolatino português*
- (Nair Castro) Soares, *Mostras de Sentido no Fluir do Tempo: Estudos de Humanismo e Renascimento*

✓ Socrates Scholasticus, *Church History*

Essentially, this continues the work started by Eusebius of Caesarea, as also did some other works already stated above.

✓ (Gaius Julius) Solinus, *Polyhistor*

Certainly among the most interesting works I read, this book contains plenty of ethnographic material. The author describes many different traditions and places, along with their origins and, sometimes, even goes as far as stating his sources for the information he shares with us. He seems to have written around the III century AD, but still recalls many stories and places popular in the previous centuries.

✓ Sophocles, *Ajax*

On the suicide of Ajax, after he loses the challenge for

the armour of the recently-deceased Achilles.

✓      Sophocles, *Antigone*

This is the famous play in which, after the death of her two brothers, Antigone ends up burying the one she was forbidden to. People usually tend to think of it as a tragedy about justice, but if you're more familiarized with the myth (see, for example, the Statius' *Thebaid*) you'll realize that there is a lot more to this unusual prohibition than tends to meet the eye.

✓      Sophocles, *Ichneutae* (f)

Existent in a significant number of long fragments, this play appears to have been about Hermes' stealing the cattle of Apollo, and the former's invention of the lyre. Some references to this essential plot can still be easily recognisable in the extant sequences.

✓      Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex*

The play which Aristotle appears to have considered the most significant of all tragedies of his day. I assume you already know its story, but in case you don't... this is essentially the one where Oedipus kills his father and marries his mother, eventually



discovering his accidental crimes and taking the penalty for them.

✓      Sophocles, *Oedipus in Colonus*

The conclusion of the myth of Oedipus, ending with the death of the hero.

✓      Sophocles, *Philoctetes*

When the Greeks feel the need to use Hercules' Bow, they go back to the island where they left Philoctetes and attempt to get the required item. As the plot unfolds, they end up having to take the hero with them to Troy.

✓      Sophocles, *Trachiniae*

A tragedy on how Heracles' wife Dejanira ends up accidentally killing the famous hero.

✓      Sophron, *Mimes* (f)

A little bit of content from this work appears to have reached us, essentially through late authors who quoted Sophron's usage of some less known words and expressions. In its current fragmentary form, the work is far from interesting to a casual reader.

✓ Soranus (of Ephesus), *Gynaecology*

Although this work seems to have nothing of relevance from a mythological standpoint, it certainly contains a lot of information about gynaecology and how women, and their diseases, were viewed and treated in the first centuries of our era.

✓ Soranus (of Ephesus), *The Origins and Life of Hippocrates*

A short life of this doctor, based on doubtful sources and disputable information. It covers his life from beginning to end, though.

✓ (Sue) Sorensen, *Battle or Gratitude? Attitudes Conveyed to Children by Pokémon, Bakugan, and Magic Tree House Books*

The author definitely compares the three series of books in this paper, but she is clearly biased for the third when compared with the previous two. In fact, she seems to compare the worst part of the two with the best parts of the third, which is disappointing and clearly not as unbiased as it should have been in a peer reviewed article.

- ✓ (António Dâmaso de Castro e) Sousa, *Itinerário que os Estrangeiros que Vêm a Portugal Devem Seguir...*

Written in mid-XIX century, this work very succinctly explains what are the main monuments and places to visit in Portugal. Some of them can still be visited today.

- ✓ (Tude M. de) Sousa, *Mosteiro, Palácio e Parque da Pena na Serra de Sintra*

An historical work about the (initial) monastery in Sintra, Portugal, later substituted by a palace and park which you can still visit today. The author provides an historical overview of the whole complex, but he openly admits his main interest is the park in itself, and so he also talks a lot about the flora later added to it.

- ✓ (Tude M. de) Sousa, *Mosteiro e Quinta da Penha Longa na Serra de Sintra*

Basically retelling the overall story of this old monastery near Sintra. However, after doing so, the author transcribes information, seemingly from an old

manuscript, on each of the monks who once occupied the place, dedicating longer sections to the most famous ones, but the whole thing seems quite out of place. On a positive note, the work also presents some drawings and photos of how this place used to be, both before and around the middle of the XX century.

✓ (Tude M. de) Sousa, *Tatuagens*

A brief work detailing how tattoos possibly entered Portugal. It also contains the drawings of some examples collected locally in the first half of the XX century.

✓ (Maria Peregrina de) Souza, *Henriqueta*

I obtained this XIX century romance expecting it to be about the somewhat famous Henriqueta Emília da Conceição e Sousa, the first name being very rare in Portugal, but instead this is a fictional work about another woman sharing the name. It is a passable romance about a wife who runs away with her lover, and the consequences of her actions.

✓ (François) Soyer, *Ambiguous Gender in Early Modern Spain and Portugal*

Apart from introducing its subject on an historical basis, this work mentions several cases from the Inquisition of Portugal and Spain where people had been accused of pretending to have a different gender than they really had, using such differences to cause trouble and seduce people. It is particularly fascinating because the author goes through the cases in a fairly deep way, detailing almost everything about them, and even presenting, in some cases, the original words along with his translation to English. Besides, the cases picked by Soyer are really interesting and read almost as fictional murder mysteries, creating a sort of eager expectation for their ending, even if the writing is still very academic.

✓ (François) Soyer, *Antisemitic Conspiracy Theories in the Early Modern Iberian World* \*

This work contains the reference to multiple conspiracy theories which appeared in Portugal and Spain across the centuries, and the author tries to track down their historical and cultural origin. It is perhaps interesting to help understand why the Jews were still seen so negatively in the XX century.

- ✓ (François) Soyer, *The Massacre of the New Christians of Lisbon in 1506: A New Eyewitness Account*

Essentially, this article seems to present a previously-unknown account of the events mentioned in the title, including the presence of an unknown young german girl who was healed by the alleged miracle.

- ✓ (Richard A.) Spears, *Forbidden American English*  
A curious dictionary of words and expressions that shouldn't be used in American English, mostly because they can be considered offensive for natives. For each, the author briefly explains them and provides two examples of their usage. Curiously, regular, non-offensive, uses of said expressions aren't ever presented here.

- ✓ (Lewis) Spence, *The Myths of Mexico & Peru* \*  
An introductory, and yet very detailed, book on the old myths which we can now associate with the territories of Mexico and Peru. The book provides the historical context behind those beliefs, the sources for the myths, but – perhaps even more interestingly for the casual reader – it sums them up in a simple and direct

way. If anything, it sometimes provides too much information, which may keep casual readers away from it – I know I found it a bit overwhelming at times.

- ✓ (Dorothy Gladys) Spicer, *Festivals of Western Europe* \*

Written in the middle of the XX century, this book talks succinctly about the holidays of twelve western european countries. For each of them the author provides the date, the name, what happens in that one festival, and also the short story behind it (if one exists at all).

- ✓ (Steven) Spielberg, *E.T. II: Nocturnal Fears*

This brief document presents a 10-page story treatment for a potential “E.T.” movie sequel. It would be more of a horror movie than a family film (like the first one).

- ✓ (Vivien) Spitz, *Doctors from Hell: The Horrific Account of Nazi Experiments on Humans*

A first-person report of the medical trials in Nuremberg, after the end of the Second World War. The author, apart from reporting on her own life and

how she lived there at that point in time, talks about the experiments the Nazis did on human beings present at the concentration camps, and quotes sequences from both victims and doctors to explain to the reader what kind of horrendous experiments were conducted there. The book also has photos, some of which are as powerful as they are traumatizing.

✓ (Johanna) Spyri, *Heidi*

The story of Heidi is well known in western culture, but I did not know it was based on a XIX century work. By itself, this book is very charming, and certainly portrays Switzerland in a very beautiful way, through a story certainly fit for children and with very significant christian ideas.

✓ (S.) Spyridakis, *Zeus Is Dead: Euhemerus and Crete*

This paper succinctly presents the basic beliefs of Euhemerus, along with the way they intersect with the unusual theological beliefs once held in the island of Crete.

✓ Square Enix, *Encyclopaedia Eorzea ~The World*



*of Final Fantasy XIV~* \*

A collection of three books about the world of the *Final Fantasy XIV* game, basically portraying it as if it was a real world. It contains a lot of information, and very beautiful images and drawings, but I felt it would seem even better if, instead of fictional subjects, they had written about the real-world inspiration behind said game and all its content.

✓ (Diana) St. Ruth, *Zen Buddhism (Simple Guides)*

As this collection title can easily lead readers to infer, this book is a very simple introduction to the subject of Zen Buddhism. The authors provide brief chapters about all you probably want to know about it, from Buddha's own story, and how it all developed across time, up to how this type of Buddhism is still active today and what places related to it you can visit. Overall, indeed an interesting work if you're seeking a simple introduction to the whole subject.

✓ (David) Standish, *Hollow Earth: The Long and Curious History of Imagining Strange Lands (...)*

Essentially a history of the hollow earth concept, from its very beginning up to our own day and age. It is

clearly very informative if you're interested in this concept, but some chapters also seem to stray too far away from the main subject, instead focusing too much on elements like the history of the religion of Koresh, where the concept had some importance.

- ✓ (Peter) Stanford, *The She-Pope: A Quest for the Truth behind the Mystery of Pope Joan*

This could be an interesting read for general audiences who are looking for more information on Pope Joan, but it also features some boring sequences, which focus more on the author's own thoughts than in his research regarding the main subject.

- ✓ (Mark D.) Stansbury-O'Donnell, *A History of Greek Art*

A very complete history of Ancient Greek Art, in its many senses, from paintings and sculpture to architecture and vases. It is beautifully adorned with many images, illustrating almost every point the author makes.

- ✓ Statius, *Achillaid*

This was going to be an epic poem on the entire life of

Achilles, but Statius seemingly died before completing it. So, the version we now have ends even before the hero reaches Troy.

- Statius, *Silvae*

- ✓ Statius, *Thebaid*

Another epic poem, this one presenting the myth of the "Seven Against Thebes". Although the poet does cover the entire (first) war, some secondary sequences seem overly long, which detract from the interest of the main storyline.

- ✓ (Joy A.) Steele, *The Oak Island Mystery – Solved*

In this book the author attempts to solve the so-called "Oak Island Mystery", and her theory is very well supported, particularly by resorting to what I feel is a great usage of Occam's Razor. I could not obtain the latest edition of the work, but the older one provided a very good support for her theory already, and I found myself convinced she could be right.

- ✓ (William) Steig, *Shrek!*

A quaint little book for children, presenting the strange story of Shrek, now most famous as the hero of multiple movies. If you're curious about it, the book is notable for presenting the hero's parents, and its story is very different from the movies.

- ✓ (Philip L.) Stein, *The Anthropology of Religion, Magic and Witchcraft*

Quite an interesting book, regarding the anthropological foundations of religion, magic and witchcraft, and how the three connect with each other. What makes this book specially interesting, though, is the fact that it explains its subject in a very simply way, fit for everyone, even providing extensive examples and connecting each of the topics with our own lives of today. If you're looking for a good introduction to these subjects, this is almost certainly what you should read.

- ✓ (John) Steinbeck, *The Acts of King Arthur and His Noble Knights*

A modern retelling of the Arthurian myths, based on Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*. Although it updates the story and it is certainly much easier to read than the

original, one should also realize it is unfinished; it also seems to significantly change and remove several main episodes, such as the famous Quest for the Holy Grail, or even Arthur's own death.

- ✓ Stephen King, *On Writing – A Memoir of the Craft*

Part autobiography, part book teaching readers how to write their own book of fiction, this appears to be interesting if you are familiar with the author's own (fiction) work, or with the one of other famous writers from North America.

- ✓ (S. A.) Stephens, *Ancient Greek Novels: The fragments* \*

As the title best indicates, this is a compilation of the fragments from some novels written in Ancient Greece which did not reach out times in a significantly complete form.

- ✓ (Walter) Stephens, *When Pope Noah Ruled the Etruscans: Annius of Viterbo and His Forged 'Antiquities'*

This article essentially presents how Viterbo's once-

famous work rose, and what other people started thinking of it across time. It is perhaps interesting to get a general overview of the original work's problems.

- ✓ (David) Stern, *Rabbinic Fantasies: Imaginative Narratives from Classical Hebrew Literature* \*

An anthology of 16 narrative works from so-called "Classical Hebrew Literature", which here extends all the way to the XIX century. Some are here completely translated to English, while others are only present in selected extracts. However, in both cases they're expertly presented by the editor and contain extensive explanatory notes. Overall, this seems to be an interesting resource to first learn about these kind of texts, which you can then explore further by yourself.

- ✓ (Herbert J.) Stern, *Trying Cases to Win: In One Volume* \*

Although this is an introductory book for lawyers in the US, so they can learn how to do their job in court in the best possible ways, it also has some philosophical interest, given the fact it introduces its readers to subjects such as court proceedings, how to successfully present a topic, or defend a case, among

others. In all honesty, I enjoyed this book so much that I even personally contacted the authors and thanked them for having written it!

- ✓ (Michelle) Stevens, *Scared Selfless: My Journey From Abuse and Madness to Surviving and Thriving*

This non-fiction work is noteworthy for the fact it presents a case of child sexual abuse in the first person. The author follows with the story for a few chapters, but eventually she just seems to skip ahead multiple times, making it harder to follow the plot. Based on this issue, it is still a good book, but perhaps not as profitable for other abused people as it could have been.

- ✓ (Ian) Stevenson, *Children Who Remember Previous Lives: A Question of Reincarnation* \*

In this book the author presents some faithful cases of some children who supposedly remembered past lives. A single chapter of the work presents all of them, while the authors introduce the topic, tell readers how to conduct similarly effective research on the subject, and present a very significant number of pages on potential

conclusions the author has derived from his studies of the subject.

- ✓ (William Grand) Stewart, *Popular Superstitions and Festive Amusements of the Highlanders of Scotland*

From the mid XIX century, this book sums up many of the legendary beliefs held in Scotland at the time, from Ghosts and Fairies to Brownies, Kelpies and Spunkies, along with chapters on Witchcraft and brief descriptions of their local festivals.

- ✓ (Paul) Stobbs, *The Nephilim Looked Like Clowns: Volume I: The History*

This book is certainly not very well written, with some secondary chapters going way longer than they should, but essentially its author starts, in the first half, by creating a kind of story of the Nephilim, based more on fiction than fact, and then tries to show readers how they can be connected with today's representation of clowns. Although that second part does raise some interesting and thought-provoking points here and there, the first makes many mistakes, to the point the author even has to resort to different editions of the



same texts to be able to support his points. Overall, the idea is intriguing, but I think this is more a work of fiction than any of credible facts.

- ✓ (Jane T.) Stoddart, *The Case Against Spiritualism*

From the early XX century, this work attacks Spiritualism from a Christian standpoint, but it mostly uses basic arguments which are very easy to read, but perhaps most unconvincing to readers.

- ✓ (Wilhelm) Storck, *Vida e Obras de Luis de Camões*

Read in a Portuguese translation, this biography of Camões (or, as too often named in English, *Camoens*) openly admits we don't have much reliable information about the poet's life, and then proceeds, across hundreds and hundreds of pages, by presenting extensive information that seems more akin to a romance than an historical work, e.g. only one or two paragraphs talk about the partial blinding of the poet, and yet many more pages describe his habits in India, who he met, what he did in his free time, etc. Maybe it is best to describe this work as one of more fiction

than fact.

✓ (Anthony) Storr, *Solitude: A Return to the Self*

On the causes and effects of the desire to be in solitude, from multiple perspectives of the human condition.

✓ (Yuri) Stoyanov, *The Other God: Dualist Religions from Antiquity to the Cathar Heresy*

A very interesting book about the evolution of the concept of religious dualism, from Ancient Egypt all the way up to the time of the medieval Bogomils and Cathars. In general, it explains the topic very well, and it often even delves into other additional aspects that you could also be wondering about.

✓ Strabo, *Geography*

Likely among the most popular geographical works. He also quotes from many now-lost sources for more extensive geographical information.

✓ (J. Michael) Straczynski, *Batman – Writer's Bible*

This is an interesting example on how to adapt an existing mythology (in this case, the fictional one of

Batman) to fit the medium of a tv show.

- ✓ (Frank E.) *Stranges, Nazi UFO Secrets and Bases Exposed*

A very small and uninteresting booklet presenting UFOs as having originated in Nazi Germany. Curiously, it suggests too much and proves too little, with phrases such as “oh, and then they solved [insert major problem here]”, as if solving major issues that go opposite to established Physics was a super easy thing to do.

- ✓ (Gianfrancesco) Straparola, *The Pleasant Nights*

A compilation of fictional stories, some of which we’d now call “fairy tales”. Like Giambattista Basile’s, this too had some influence in future compilations, and some of the original stories presented here are still known nowadays with some changes, like the famous story of the “Puss in Boots”.

- ✓ (Richard E.) Strassberg, *A Chinese Bestiary – Strange Creatures from the Guideways Through Mountains and Seas* \*

This is a partial translation of a work from China called

the *Shan Hai Jing*, i.e. *Guideways Through Mountains and Seas*. It contains a long introduction to the original books and their context, but this work's most noteworthy feature is the fact it not only talks about all the creatures themselves but also presents (all?) the original engravings, allowing you not only to read about the many animals but also seeing how they are represented. When compared to western bestiaries, it should be noted that not only are animals described, but so is their cry and readers are even told what most animals could be used for, i.e. what their magical properties are.

✓ (Alix) Strauss, *Death Becomes Them: Unearthing the Suicides of the Brilliant, the Famous, and the Notorious* \*

I came across this book by mere accident, while trying to find a study on the reasons of suicide of famous figures of the past. Although this work does talk about some of them, it is also too informal. I felt it treated suicide as if it was merely a regular daily life subject, at some points even apparently considering it as almost a joke. So, although it retells the stories of some notorious figures of the past, and the context of

their suicides, I feel it certainly isn't the best book to read on the subject.

- ✓ (Neil) Strauss, *The Game: Penetrating the Secret Society of Pickup Artists*

At first I found myself in some difficulty to sum up this book, but it can be presented as an insider look at a specific group of pickup artists from the US. Here and there, it does also present some brief information on the techniques they use, but that is certainly not what the bulk of the book is all about.

- ✓ (Neil) Strauss, *The Truth: An Uncomfortable Book About Relationships*

Somewhat of a sequel to the aforementioned book (or one of several?), here the author is taken through the consequences of his previous life. He does quite a bit of exploration on the subject of relationships, but I felt this was a lot less interesting than its predecessor.

- ✓ (Clara) Stroebe, *The Swedish Fairy Book*

A small book with tales from Sweden. Some of them are a bit repetitive, but others are interesting and even quite original, such as "First Born, First Wed".

✓ (Snorri) Sturluson, *The Prose Edda*

Along with the *Poetic Edda*, this is an essential book for all of those who are interested in Nordic Mythology. However, unlike that other source, this one is more of a prose nature, even containing some other resources that aren't always linked to gods and heroes themselves.

✓ Suetonius, *Life of Virgil*

Potentially coming from a now-lost work in which Suetonius covered the lives of many other poets, this one preserves the life of the author of the *Aeneid*; since less than a century separates this author from the poet, it is possible that he still had some very faithful sources available to him.

✓ Suetonius, *Lives of the Grammarians*

Starting with a short introduction on how the art of Grammar was first taken to Rome, this work essentially tells us very little about the lives of a few, mostly unknown, grammarians from the Roman Empire.

✓ Suetonius, *Lives of the Poets*

Extremely short biographies of a very small number of poets from the Roman Empire. It may have been an epitome of a much larger work, as evidenced by the *Life of Virgil* above.

✓ Suetonius, *Lives of the Rhetoricians*

On a few rhetoricians from Rome. Particularly noteworthy is the fact the author mentions in the prologue, as mere examples, two legal *controversiae*, i.e. cases which were then considered especially difficult to solve.

✓ Suetonius, *Lives of the Twelve Caesars*

A biography of the Roman Empire's very first emperors, starting with Julius Caesar and later ending with Domitian.

✓ Sulpicius Severus, *Life of Saint Martin*

Naturally, this work retells the life of Saint Martin of Tours, who Sulpicius Severus did meet personally. The strange thing about this work, however, is the fact that despite the author repeatedly stressing he was only going to include truthful facts in it, he also retells

many unusual miracles, including several confrontations between Saint Martin and the Devil; one has to wonder if he was simply writing down these pious lies, or if he was accidentally perpetuating potential lies (or unusual visions?) that his friend may have told him.

- ✓ (Erika Ann) Sumilang-Engracia, *Repackaging Japanese culture: The digitalisation of folktales in the Pokémon franchise*

One of the few papers I could find on the connection between Pokemon and local folklore from Japan, it deserves to be noted this author only presents a few examples, but she establishes a full chart of possibilities up to the sixth generation; I can understand it'd be difficult to talk about all of them in a single paper, but she could have definitely published all her data on the subject too...

- ✓ (Cass R.) Sunstein, *On Rumors: How Falsehoods Spread, Why We Believe Them, and What Can Be Done*

The title pretty much says what this book is all about, but I also felt the final section – “what can be done?” –



was not as helpful as it could have been in theory.

- ✓ (John) Sutherland, *The Lives of the Novelists: A History of Fiction in 294 Lives* \*

This book led me to mixed feelings, in the sense it partially fulfils the idea presented in its title, but does so in a far from pleasing way. Each Novelist is briefly presented through its life, but the work starts in the XVII century – as if fiction had been born just then – and I found the “lives” far from pleasing, and instead just quite boring.

- ✓ (Dana Ferrin) Sutton, *The Greek Satyr Play*  
Essentially an extended introduction to everything about Ancient Greek satyr plays, with a lot of information about the ones we still have evidence of. It also presents multiple chapters on Euripides’ extant *Cyclops*, and some references to more recent plays inspired by the whole subject at hand.

- ✓ (Dana Ferrin) Sutton, *The Lost Sophocles*  
The author here tries to present more or less what happened in each of the lost plays of Sophocles, basing herself on the extant fragments then associated

with each of them. Although the fragments with unknown provenance are all presented here in translation, oddly she numbers the fragments of the plays but does not present them all, either in their original language or in translation. It also contains a very brief attempt at a chronology of this author's plays.

✓ (Michael) Svingel, *Urban Legends of Church History – 40 Common Misconceptions* \*

The name is a bit misleading for this one, since it presents 40 myths associated with Church History and beliefs. Some are very significant even for today, others not so much (e.g. "The Swiss Theologian Karl Barth Was a Liberal"). Overall, I felt this had some interesting facts here and there, with its most important point likely being that the authors provide sources for their information.

✓ (Jonathan) Swift, *A Tale of a Tub*

A strange religious satire, through a tale of three brothers, presented alongside with many secondary sections, some of which of some complexity (I even skipped one, given how boring I felt it was). It has

some interesting elements, and so less-good ones too.

✓ (Jonathan) Swift, *The Battle of the Books*

A satirical and incomplete fictional version of the Battle between the Ancients and the Moderns, with book authors metaphorically fighting each other for supremacy. It is not as funny or interesting as this brief synopsis may lead you to believe, and I was quite disappointed with it.

✓ (Jonathan) Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

A satirical example of travel literature. It does have several amusing episodes, but the most noteworthy is certainly when the hero talks to some dead people from Ancient Greece and Rome, such as Julius Caesar, Homer and Aristotle.

✓ (Egerton) Sykes, *Who's Who in Non-Classical Mythology* \*

Essentially a succinct dictionary of non-classical myths and legends, where each figure is described with a little bit of information. Unfortunately, although the work features a section on bibliography at the end, it is pretty hard to know where each individual piece of

information comes from. And so, essentially this is something you could get for yourself if you were looking for a very simplistic “encyclopedia” on the subjects at hand.

✓      Symphosius, *Riddles*      \*

A collection of 100 roman riddles (well, technically they're 99, since the 96th of the compilation appears to be lost), with solutions, to be used during the festival of the Saturnalia.

✓      Synesius of Cyrene, *In Praise of Baldness*

Potentially related to Dio Chrysostom's *Encomium on Hair*, it evidently presents an encomium on the subject of baldness.

✓      Synesius of Cyrene, *On Dreams*

A very short work, essentially presenting the idea that dreams come from the gods of Ancient Greece and Rome.

## 21- Section T

- ✓ Tacitus, *Agricola* \*

This life of Gnaeus Julius Agricola is particularly valuable since it was written by Tacitus, who was actually his son-in-law.

- Tacitus, *Dialogue on Oratory*

- ✓ Tacitus, *Germania*

Quite a tantalizing ethnographic work, since it describes many of the Germanic tribes, along with their culture and beliefs. In fact, it is even quite hard to read it without wishing to know more about some of the cultural elements Tacitus refers to.

- ✓ (Oliver) Taplin, *Pots & Plays*

A good research book, in which the relationship between vase paintings and the potential plays they may represent is well explored.

- ✓ (Lilia) Tarawa, *Daughter of Gloriavale: My Life in a Religious Cult*

The true-life story of a woman who was raised in the Gloravale community in New Zealand. Most chapters are a very charming portrayal of life in what may be considered a cult, but the late ones, after she essentially gets away from it, are just way too quick and boring.

✓ (Torquato) Tasso, *Jerusalem Delivered* \*

Written near the end of the XVI century, and seldom read nowadays, this is an epic poem based on the First Crusade. It contains some mythological references, but it is also a profoundly charming masterpiece, the poet seemingly having died of insanity while attempting to make it a perfect work.

✓ (Maria) Tatar, *The Hard Facts of the Grimm's Fairy Tales: Expanded Edition*

If you've already read the Grimm's fairy tales – which is undoubtedly a *sine qua non* condition to read this other book – here you can learn more about the theory behind them, and fairy tales in general. The first chapter, which tells of how many tales were changed across time, along with the annexes (which contain lesser known stories, commented ones, etc.), are

particularly worthy of being noted.

✓ Tatian, *Address to the Greeks*

Yet one more apology for Christianity, this one appears to have been praised for the way in which it argued that Moses was a much older author than Homer; this primacy of cultures appears to have been a significant point for many Christian authors.

When I first read it I also jotted down an intriguing question which comes from this work – “Why did Hera stopped having more children after a certain period of time?”

✓ Tatian, *Diatessaron* \*

An attempt by the author to harmonize the four main synoptic gospels in a single continuous narrative.

✓ (Ian) Tattersall, *Hoax: A History of Deception: 5000 years of Fakes, Forgeries and Fallacies*

Here, the author briefly describes 50 important hoaxes which took place across the centuries.

✓ (Carol) Tavris, *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me): Why We Justify Foolish Beliefs, Bad*

*Decisions, and Hurtful Acts*

A very thought-provoking work on cognitive dissonance, where the authors explain the whole process step by step, even presenting many real-world stories related to it.

- ✓ Taylor Marshall, *False Insomnia: The Platonic Significance of the Ivory Gate in Book VI of the Aeneid*

All of those who read the *Aeneid* may have noticed a rather intriguing passage at the end of the sixth book, regarding the exit doorways of the realm of the dead. That's what this research paper focuses on, a potential hidden meaning for those verses and their cultural background.

- ✓ (A. C.) Teixeira de Aragão, *Diabruras, Santidades e Prophecias*

From the end of the XIX century, this book preserves some beliefs from the time, set around three major centres – the Devil and magic; saints and supposedly holy figures; and two prophets. It should also be noted for the fact it preserves rare transcripts of documents from the Inquisition, particularly on the second and



third main chapters.

- ✓ (António Manuel) Terras, *O Supplicio de Diogo Alves*

Written in the year of his death, this poem presents Diogo Alves, the famous killer from Portugal, thinking about his crimes in the final minutes of his life.

- ✓ Tertullian, *Ad Nationes*

This work can be divided into two essential sequences for its two books, the first one refuting some of the misconceptions people had about Christianity, and the second one showing Paganism's very own flaws.

- ✓ Tertullian?, *Against All Heresies*

Attributed to Tertullian by some, this is a work detailing Christian Heresies.

- ✓ Tertullian, *Apologetics*

One more apology of Christianity.

- ✓ Tertullian, *On the Spectacles*

Written against spectacles (such as theatre and gladiatorial fights), with the author portraying them as

harmful due to its pagan associations.

- (Eugene) Thavenner, *Three as Magic Number in Latin Literature*
- Theocritus, *Idylls* \*

✓ Theodore, *A Cure of Greek Maladies* \*

The author here presents an attempt to refute some of the ideas of pagan religions, by resorting to quotes from pagan authors themselves.

- Theodore, *Compendium of Heretical Mythification* \*

✓ Theophilus of Antioch, *Theophilus to Autolycus* \*

Yet another work defending Christianity, this one doing so against Autolycus, apparently a learned friend of the author.

✓ Theophrastus, *Characters*

A compilation of "moral characters", in the sense of traits that people frequently have. He describes, for example, how flatterers, buffoons, and tactless men generally act like, and he always does so in a very

synthetic and simple way.

- ✓ Theophylact Simocatta, *History* \*

An historical account written in the VII century of our era.

- ✓ (Henry) Thomas, *Spanish and Portuguese Romances of Chivalry* \*

A short and introductory study of the chivalry romances from the Iberian Peninsula, focusing essentially on the Amadis and Palmeirim ones (which are even summed up in here), and often using Don Quixote as an interesting starting point for criticism on individual works. The later chapters also talk about the influence those romances had in other countries, such as France, Germany, Italy and the UK.

- ✓ (Roy) Thomas, *The Iliad*

A Marvel Comics version of Homer's *Iliad*. Personally I didn't find it very enjoyable, since some of the drawings do not fittingly capture the action, and the dialogue is also very artificial in some points.

- ✓ (Roy) Thomas, *The Trojan War*

Another Marvel Comics book, this one contains the story of the Trojan War following the end of the *Iliad*. It seems to capture all its main plot points, which is quite impressive if we take into account that few substantial literary sources preserve those happenings.

- ✓ (C. J. S.) Thompson, *The Mystery and Lore of Monsters: With accounts of some Giants, Dwarfs and Prodigies*

The essential topic of this work is the “monsters” which were found across time in the world, from the ones of Classical Antiquity up to the creatures found in the author’s own time, at the beginning of the XX century. But then, he further adds to this topic with pages on dwarves and giants, which he also presents historically and with deeper stories for the ones closer to his own time.

- ✓ (Frank) Thompson, *Lost Films: Important Movies That Disappeared*

A work about old black-and-white movies that, although culturally significant, haven’t reached us at all. For each one, the author provides an extensive synopsis, along with some comments on its

importance. At least one of them struck me as definitely worth watching, until I realized that, given the nature of the book in itself, I'd possibly never be able to do so.

✓ (Henry D.) Thoreau, *Walden*

Written in the XIX century, this work reports the real and philosophical journey of the author when he went to live in the forest for two years. It has some really beautiful moments here and there, and it should be noted he occasionally quotes and alludes to famous world literature, including from Classics.

✓ (Charles) Tibbits, *Folklore and legends*

This is not a critical work in any way, instead just presenting a dissertation on fairies, followed by a compilation of a small number of tales and legends from England.

✓ Tiberianus?, *Vigil of Venus*

A short poem on the yearly season in which, after winter, plants and animals return to their fallen glory. It features a few mythological references.

✓ (Raquel) Tibol, *Escritos de Frida Kahlo* \*

Read in a Portuguese translation – I am unaware of its title in the original Spanish – this work preserves many selected writings of Frida Kahlo, mostly letters. Some are interesting, others are pretty casual, but they are certainly noteworthy if you care about her or her work at a more intimate level.

✓ (Jeffrey H.) Tigay, *The Evolution of the Gilgamesh Epic*

A very interesting work, on how the episodes of the (famous) *Epic of Gilgamesh* changed from the earliest sources available to us up to the specific form in which we read it today.

✓ (Frances) Timbers, *Magic and Witchcraft in the West: Sabbats, Satan and Supersitions*

An introductory-level work on the history of magic in Western Europe, particularly England, France and Italy. It makes some very good points here and there, but it should be noted that not everything the author claims is supported by direct evidence, and you may notice a few flaws here and there. Plus, for the geographical area it is supposed to cover, there is close to no

information about Portugal...

- ✓ (John) Timbs, *Things Not Generally Known, Familiarly Explained* \*

Seemingly very popular in the XVIII century (I read it in its eleventh edition), this is essentially a book of curiosities, some more interesting than others, mostly related to the natural world, but with some sections about art, culture, etc.

- ✓ (Isaiah) Tishby, *The Wisdom of the Zohar: An Anthology of Texts* \*

This work, which extends through multiple volumes, explains part of the content of the *Zohar* and provides some texts translated from it. It is hardly an introduction fit for all audiences – I myself had some trouble understanding some parts of it, given their complexity – but if you're looking to learn more about the *Zohar*, this may be a significant initial helper towards studying it in a more complete form.

- ✓ (Joseph) Tobin, *Pikachu's Global Adventure: The Rise and Fall of Pokémon*

Compiled in the early 2000s, I expected this to be a

book on the history of Pokémon outside of Japan, but instead it is just a compilation of papers presented in a conference, with no specific focus on the development of the franchise.

- ✓ (Helena Costa) Toipa, *O Milagre das Rosas em De Vita et Moribus Beatae Elisabethae Lusitaniae Reginae de Pedro João Perpinhão*

A brief but interesting article, in which the author briefly presents the early sources for Queen Isabel's "Miracle of the Roses".

- ✓ (Helena Costa) Toipa, *Rainha Santa Isabel – Fontes para o seu estudo* \*

This is a collection of sources, essentially Portuguese ones, which report on the life and the many miracles of the Queen (and Saint) Isabel, wife of the King Denis of Portugal.

- ✓ (J. R. R.) Tolkien, *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil* \*

A collection of poems, some of which do refer to Tom Bombadil (best known from the *Lord of the Rings*), but overall they're just regular poems, some of which are



also presented in the author's most famous work.

✓ (J. R. R.) Tolkien, *The Fall of Arthur*

Undoubtedly incomplete, it seems that in this work the author wanted to tell the final episodes of the legendary story of King Arthur. Regrettably, he never finished it.

✓ (J. R. R.) Tolkien, *The Hobbit* \*

Essentially a prequel to the *Lord of the Rings*, narrating the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, and explaining how he got his fortune (and the famous ring).

✓ (J. R. R.) Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings* \*

Although this is quite a famous trilogy of books nowadays, what is particularly interesting about them, from a mythological standpoint, is that the author seems to have reused many mythological ideas and theories all across his work, which you may sometimes be able to recognise. From references to the names of places of which the origin was long forgotten, to songs narrating old legends, along with almost-constant references to previous – and often obscure – events,

the author was extensively familiar with the theoretical concepts behind myths and legends. And yes, the story of the trilogy, in itself, is interesting, but I also felt this deeper origin behind it was potentially as interesting as the adventures of Frodo and his companions.

✓ Tomás da Fonseca, *Na Cova dos Leões*

A book disproving the supposed miracles of Fátima, in Portugal, written by someone who lived more or less during that period of time. It isn't very well written, in my personal opinion, but it does present, here and there, some potential references to what may have been a significant scam to trick the general public; whether true or not, all the people involved in it are already dead by now.

✓ (John Kennedy) Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*

Somewhat of a picaresque novel, perhaps most noteworthy here for the main character's obsession with Boethius' *Consolation of Philosophy*. It is a funny work, too!

✓ (Frances) Toor, *A Treasury Of Mexican*

*Folkways\**

This is a very interesting book about traditional culture from Mexico, as it stood in the middle of the XX century. The author lived there herself at the time, and often reports on aspects of the culture which she saw with her own eyes. It is also noteworthy that the book contains, apart from many important notes on local folklore, a final chapter with multiple traditional stories from the same time and place.

- ✓ (Edward) Topsell, *The History of the Four-footed Beasts and Serpents* \*

Published in the middle of the XVII century, this is a very simplified version of Conrad Gessner's *Historia Animalium* translated to english. It preserves some of the cultural references from the original, but a lot of significant information was cut. This version preserves many, but not all, of the beautiful engravings presented in the original work.

- ✓ (Zeb) Tortorici, *Masturbation, Salvation, and Desire: Connecting Sexuality and Religiosity in Colonial Mexico*

An unexpected research paper focusing on the strange

case of Agustina Ruiz, who allegedly had sex with the Virgin Mary, Jesus and multiple saints (not at the same time). Unfortunately, the author never presents the full case, instead just summing up some sections of the defendant's speeches, making it hard for the reader to understand how far the whole situation tended to go, which I am not entirely sure it is a good or a bad idea here.

- ✓ (Zeb) Tortorici, *Sins Against Nature: Sex and Archives in Colonial New Spain*

This book contains multiple cases from South America in which the Inquisition, among a few other authorities, intervened in events which are, directly or indirectly, related to sex. Although the topic is intriguing, regrettably the author does not fully translate the original case files, which is problematic since, at least in some of them – like Agustina Ruiz's – they aren't easy to access.

- ✓ (J. M. C.) Toynbee, *Beasts and Their Names in the Roman Empire*

An unusual, yet very intriguing, paper on the classical names of beasts – from pets, such as dogs, up to

racings horses and those animals which fought in the arenas.

- ✓ (Gonçalo Fernandes) Trancoso, *Contos e Histórias de Proveito e Exemplo*

Seemingly the oldest collection of exemplar tales available in Portuguese. It does have some little references to magic and fantastic elements, but that's about it.

- (Gonçalo Fernandes) Trancoso, *Regra Geral das Festas Mudáveis* \*

- ✓ (Brinsley Le Poer) Trench, *Secret of the Ages: UFOs from inside the Earth*

This work can be divided into two main sequences, the first one about Atlantis and the second about Hollow Earth theories. Its chapters basically go through various topics but they all tie in with these two main areas, and it is a bit funny that some of the ideas presented here have since been refuted. Also specially interesting is the fact this book truly presents a photo of a hole in the north pole (which it seems to have obtained from a magazine published at the time), to

support the whole idea that the Earth may be hollow!

- ✓ (Thomas Adolphus) Trollope, *Italy, from the Alps to Mount Etna* \*

From the late XIX century, this work features hundreds of pages about the Italy of the time, and over 400 engravings, 100 of them full-size, of all kinds of places from that country. So, if you are looking for an old images from some famous place in the lands of Italy, you may likely find it in this work.

- ✓ (Stephen) Tropiano, *TV Finales FAQ*

An unusual book in which the author briefly present some of TV's most famous shows and then talk about their significant finales. Some are presented in a very complex and prolonged way, others are just a paragraph or two, but this is potentially a noteworthy work if you have some interest in how shows start, evolve and ultimately end.

- (Mary L.) Trump, *Too Much and Never Enough – how my family created the world's most dangerous man*

- ✓ Tryphiodorus, *Taking of Ilios*

This poem describes the final events of the Trojan War, from the capture of Helenus and the construction of the famous Trojan Horse up to the moment in which the Greeks finally sail back home.

- ✓ (S.) Trzaskoma, *Anthology of Classical Myth: Primary Sources in Translation* \*

A compilation of myths through their occurrence in primary sources.

- (E.) Tsitsibakou-Vasalos, *Iliou Persis and the epic tradition*

- ✓ Tulsidas, *Hanuman Chalisa*

A short but famous hymn praising the hindu god Hanuman, which naturally contains multiple allusions to the content of the *Ramayana*, and this same god's role in it.

- ✓ (Patricia A.) Turner, *I Heard it Through the Grapevine: Rumor in African-American Culture*

This work presents some significant rumours seemingly common in the African-American cultures in

the USA, and the author tries to track down their origin and where they came from. If nothing else, it will at least make you more wary of trusting information you do not know where it really comes from.

- ✓ (Patricia A.) Turner, *Trash Talk: Anti-Obama Lore and Race in the Twenty-First Century* \*

I considered reading this one after the one above, but it was a lot less interesting to me, with the author essentially analysing some of the rumours about the notable president from a point in time in the future.

- ✓ (Patricia A.) Turner, *Whispers on the Color Line: Rumor and Race in America*

About racially-motivated, or related, rumours from the US, with the author providing lots of examples, some even with stories around them, and trying to study at least a few. If you're unfamiliar with the culture of that country, this work also tends to explain some curious aspects of it, those related to race relationships.

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Turpin, *History of Charles the Great and Orlando*

Essentially a text reporting the deeds of Charlemagne,



(falsely?) attributed to a bishop of Reims who played a significant role in the events at hand. Although this report undoubtedly mixes historical fact with several legends, from a mythological standpoint its chapter XVII is definitely worth mentioning, as it presents Orlando – whether this is the same figure as the one from the *Song of Roland* remains unclear – fighting against a giant named Ferracute, following which the two unexpectedly debate some significant theological points, before their physical confrontation finally ends.

- (Graham) Twelftree, *The Cambridge Companion to Miracles* \*

- ✓ (Joyce) Tyldesley, *The Penguin Book of Myths and Legends of Ancient Egypt*

Quite an interesting introductory book to the subject, since it explains some of the essential problems involving the study of Egyptian Mythology, but it also provides significant myths and other resources for additional exploration by those who may be interested in this topic.

- ✓ (Isaac) Tzetzes, *Ad Lycophronem*

An almost verse-by-verse commentary to Lycophron's *Alexandra*, basically explaining what the original author meant by his cryptic verses. Isaac presents many famous myths, but also a few obscure ones, including versions of some stories that now seem to be lost to us.

✓ (John) Tzetzes, *Allegories of the Iliad*

The author here attempts to interpret many problematic passages from the *Iliad* based on techniques common at his time. The resulting work does provide some explanations, but they're clearly not the same ones you'd have gotten in the Antiquity, instead being heavily constrained by the author's own time and place.

✓ (John) Tzetzes, *Antehomerica*

A small sum-up of the episodes of the Trojan War which took place before the *Iliad*. It is not exactly clear what the author's sources were, but if he actually used the now-lost *Cypria* (which he briefly quotes from in the *Chiliades*), he never directly tells us about it; instead, taking into account the sources he does mention in his *Posthomerica*, chances are that he used

the accounts of both Dares and Dictys.

✓ (John) Tzetzes, *Chiliades*

Essentially an explanation of the classical mentions present in the author's own letters. In itself, it is not a work on Mythology, but Tzetzes does write about a very high number of myths, also referencing and quoting from several primary sources. That's what it is most famous about this work, the fact that it preserves many mythical versions and content from primary sources which are now partially lost to us.

✓ (John) Tzetzes, *Homerica*

A sum-up of some of the episodes which occurred in Homer's *Iliad*. Generally, the two sources present a very similar plot line, but there are also some divergences between them, such as in the episode in which Achilles and Priam meet.

✓ (John) Tzetzes, *Posthomerica*

Yet another sum-up of episodes from the Trojan War, this one featuring the events which took place between the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Unlike the two previous ones, this one does frequently mention some of the

primary sources the author used for his own report.

## 22- Section U

- ✓ (Kosho) Uchiyama, *Opening the Hand of Thought: Foundations of Zen Buddhist Practice*

Mostly focusing on “Zazen”, but I felt that instead of an introduction, this work already requires you to know at least some essential aspects of the practice.

- ✓ Ulrich von Liechtenstein, *Service of Ladies*

From the mid-XIII century, this wonderful work is a first-person retelling of a knight’s life in the Middle Ages. One definitely has to wonder where truth ends and fiction begins – in one of the work’s most amusing sequence, he dresses up as Venus and has many combats against male knights, which is a bit odd, if real – but overall the work is fun, and covers Ulrich’s life from a young age up to the moment he apparently lost his lady. Across it, he also mentions some of the poems he has written for his lady, which adds even a little more interest to the whole poetic composition.

- ✓ Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

Although presenting a fictional story, this book is worth

reading for the way it depicts some aspects of medieval monastic life. It also references many real books of some relevance in the Middle Ages, along with a few potentially fictional ones (such as Aristotle's *Poetics*' book on comedy).

- ✓ (Hugh B.) Urban, *Magia Sexualis: Sex, Magic and Liberation in Modern Western Esotericism*

Overall, this work is about the connection between magic and sexuality, in the many ways which linked them throughout the ages, from Early Christianity up to our day and age. The author dedicates each chapter to a significant figure or aspect of this connection, briefly presenting them, their work, and how they tie with this whole subject.

- ✓ (Carlota Miranda) Urbano, *Isabel, Rainha e Santa: Pervivência de um Culto Centenário* \*

A Portuguese compilation of a few articles related to the cult of Saint Elizabeth of Portugal. Although it provides, indirectly, some information on the queen's life and legends, that's definitely not one of the work's main features.

## 23- Section V

### ✓ Valerius Flaccus, *Argonautica*

This is another epic poem about the myth of Jason and the Argonauts, which seems to be at least partially based on Apollonius of Rhodes' masterpiece. However, it is now also an incomplete work, ending shortly after the main hero and Medea get married.

### ✓ Valerius Maximus, *Memorable deeds and sayings*

A huge compilation of stories on many different subjects. Although the presence of myths tends to be minimal, this work preserves many mentions and famous accounts from Greek and Roman times, being of huge importance for the task of understanding what the Romans themselves considered their most famous events and histories.

### ✓ (Jacques) Valee, *Passport to Magonia: On UFOs, Folklore and Parallel Worlds* \*

This work is essentially composed of two almost-independent parts. The first one presents readers the idea that there are some common aspects between our

modern appearances of UFOs and traditional tales from mythology and legends. The second presents very brief synopsis of 923 cases of UFO appearances collected over a century and ending in November 1968. Perhaps back in the day this would have been a very interesting resource, but nowadays I am sure the information from this second part is readily available online for free and with even more content than it is presented here.

- ✓ (Jacques) Valee, *Wonders in the Sky: Unexplained Aerial Objects From Antiquity to Modern Times* \*

In a nutshell, the bulk of this book presents 500 historical episodes the author found sources for where something unknown, potentially linked to UFOs, may have happened. Some are famous, but others are somewhat more unreliable, and so said sources deserve to be taken with some significant grains of the proverbial salt.

- ✓ (Lorenzo) Valla, *La Conquista de Antequera (con la Leyenda de la Peña de los Enamorados*

This partial translation of one of Valla's works,



published in the middle of the XX century, focuses essentially on the historical events which happened in Antequera, in Spain, also preserving what is seemingly the oldest written version of the local legend of the “Cliff of the Beloved”. This work, in itself, is specially important for preserving a translation of that legend into Spanish.

- ✓ (Gérard) Vallée, *A Study in Anti-Gnostic Polemics: Irenaeus, Hippolytus and Epiphanius*

A comparative study on how these three authors opposed heresies in one of their respective works. It provides direct and detailed information on their unique approaches to the subject.

- ✓ (Edgar) Valles, *Prática Processual Civil com o Novo CPC*

A book on legal subjects from Portugal, here being worthy of note for the fact it contains, here and there, some small stories used to illustrate potential cases.

- ✓ Valmiki, *Ramayana*

A popular epic from India, on the life of Rama, the seventh avatar, or incarnation, of the god Vishnu. The

(long) battle between Rama and Ravana is, in my view, one of the most interesting aspects of the work, but the way some sequences are described is also quite enjoyable.

- ✓ *Vanamali, The Complete Life of Krishna: Based on the earliest oral traditions and sacred scriptures*

The life of Krishna – and, by an attachment to it, the epic *Mahabharata* – is retold in a simple way in this book. It is fit for all audiences, as it presents the story almost as a novel from our own days.

- ✓ *Vanamali, The Complete Life of Rama: Based on Valmiki's Ramayana and the earliest oral traditions*

This work retells the story of Valmiki's famous *Ramayana* in a very simple and easy to read way, fit for every reader. It also features some succinct comments, here and there, that help explain particular aspects of the plot to western audiences.

- ✓ *Vanamali, Hanuman: The Devotion and Power of the Monkey God*

Essentially a compilation of the story of Hanuman, from beginning to “end”. It covers his role in the two famous Indian epics, along with many other legends. Unfortunately, it seldom mentions where each version of those stories comes from, and so you’re often forced to, let’s say, read a plot from the *Ramayana* with some significant changes coming from other undisclosed works.

✓ Vardan of Aygek, *Book of the Fox* \*

A book of fables from XIII century Armenia. Although some of the stories present in this compilation seem to have come from previous sources, others also appear to be entirely new; the compilation contains not only animal fables, but also others related to humans, and even a few more directed towards the divine.

✓ (Gary R.) Varner, *Creatures in the Mist: Little People, Wild Men and Spirit Beings around the World: A Study in Comparative Mythology* \*

If I had to define this book in a word, it would certainly be “misleading” – the title and the synopsis seem to promise one thing, but as you go through its pages you find a very different one. Yes, the earlier chapters

do talk about the “creatures in the mist” from the title, but the remaining ones seem more of an unrelated research on comparative mythology. In fact, as I read through this book, time and again I found myself thinking this is definitely not a work written for a basic audience, plus the content is presented in a way that is very fuzzy and difficult to follow. Summing up, this is not recommended at all.

- ✓ (Francisco Adolfo) Varnhagen, *Da literatura dos livros de cavalarias*

A brief presentation of some of the most significant chivalry romances from Portugal and Spain.

- ✓ Varro, *Agricultural Topics*

One of the works by Marcus Varro which reached us in a more complete form, likely because it preserves a harmless and useful topic that Christians would likely be interested in. He quotes from some of the sources which came before him to provide extensive advice on the agricultural arts.

- ✓ (Divya) Vartika, *Dashavatar: A Collection of Ten Short Stories*

A short presentation of the stories of the ten main avatars of god Vishnu. They are featured here in a very introductory way, best fit for children or those who know nothing about the subject yet.

✓ Vatsyayana, *Kamasutra*

I acquired a copy of this work because it is too frequently mentioned in western culture but, at the same time, too seldom read. Unlike you could think, it is not a work essentially about sex, but instead one about the mutual relationship between men and women, of which sex is, naturally, considered to be one of the components.

✓ (Pero) Vaz de Caminha, *Carta*

This epistle from the XVI century preserves one of the earliest reports of the discovery of Brazil, succinctly retelling the event itself and some of the things the crew did in the succeeding days.

✓ Vazha-Pshavela, *Host and Guest*

Quite a charming poem written at the end of the XIX century, in which two men from the country of Georgia meet in the forest while hunting. Although it starts up

simple, the whole plot quickly speeds up, and the consequences of the whole actions are portrayed in a very curious way.

✓ (Maffeo) Vegio, *Book 13 of the Aeneid*

Written in XV century, this poem's goal was essentially the one of "completing" the story of Virgil's *Aeneid*, telling readers what became of Aeneas after he killed Turnus. He follows through by presenting Turnus' funeral, the Aeneas' marriage to Lavinia, and his succeeding deification.

✓ (Selma de Vieira) Velho, *A influência da mitologia hindú na literatura portuguesa dos séculos XVI e XVII* \*

This thesis seems to overpromise and underdeliver in its title. Although the author recaps some of the earliest western books on beliefs from India, and even edits some sections of said texts, when it comes to presenting their potential influence in the literature of Portugal, only Gil Vicente, Camões and a specific story are ever discussed.

• Velleius Paterculus, *History(?)* \*

✓ Venantius Fortunatus, *Miracles of Saint Hilary*

Naturally, a retelling of the miracles performed by Saint Hilary. However, an intriguing aspect of this work is that it is never made completely clear whether some of these miracles were performed by the saint while he was still living, or if he merely interceded for people only after he had already died.

• Venantius Fortunatus, *On Easter*

✓ (Jesse) Ventura, *American Conspiracies: Lies, Lies, and More Dirty Lies That the Government Tells Us*

Certainly interesting if you're American or you have interest in American history, this work picks a few local conspiracies and tries to give a different take on them. None of them is too crazy, e.g. the UFO kind, but the chapters do show us that there may be more than meets the eye in the cases at hand.

✓ (Susana) Ventura, *Contos Mouriscos: A magia do Oriente nas histórias portuguesas*

In Brazilian Portuguese, this is a small compilation of tales from Portugal where Enchanted Moors play a major role. I could not find out if these stories are completely traditional ones or if they were adapted for modern audiences, but from the fact the enchantments are dispelled in these tales, which is uncommon in most traditional stories I've read, the latter option seems more likely.

✓ (Jacinto) Verdaguer, *L'Atlàntida*

A poem in Catalan from the end of the XIX century, in which the mythological episodes of the disappearance of Atlantis, the adventures of Hercules in Spain, and the creation of the Mediterranean Sea by the same hero, are all linked together. The idea, in itself, is certainly fascinating, but personally I did not enjoy the poem very much, since the author appears to treat the subject in a very light way, producing intriguing innovations but quickly abandoning them at a very quick pace.

✓ (Pierre) Verger, *Deuses Iorubás na África e no Novo Mundo*

An introduction to the beliefs and gods of Yoruba and



Candomblé. It contains a lot of information, but too often I felt the author said little to nothing about some of the key concepts of those religions, to the point that, in some instances, it even seems like he is speaking an entirely different language, e.g. he mentions “pais de santo” but never explains that one concept, among others.

✓ (Pierre) Verger, *Lendas Africanas dos Orixás*  
A small compilation of random legends related to the orishas. If you don't know anything about them, you won't learn it here either, although most of the plots are essentially self-contained.

✓ Vestinus, *Altar*  
Perhaps related to Dosiadas' own *Altar*, this poem is also shaped like an altar, but has fewer mythological references than that other one.

✓ Vettius Valens, *Anthology*  
This is as much an important work as it is boring for those who simply attempt to read it. It is the biggest and more detailed treatise on Astrology coming from the Antiquity, providing almost complete information

on what you need to know about that area of knowledge, together with several sample charts that can be analysed by readers.

Unfortunately, unless you're *really* interested in how Astrology worked in the Antiquity, this just isn't one of those books that you can simply pick up and read, as it tends to be more of a learning experience, which you have to analyse, compare, and try, to get the most of.

- ✓ (Paul) Veyne, *Did the Greeks Believe in Their Myths?: An Essay on the Constitutive Imagination*

The title says it best when it comes to this particular book, it is essentially a work that gives you some room for thinking about whether the Greeks truly believed on the stories attached to their religion. The outcome is a bit debatable.

- ✓ (Francis) Vian, *La Guerre des Géants: Le Mythe Avant L'Époque Hellénistique*

About the artistic and literary evidence we have for an early Gigantomachy. The author provides plenty of information about that mythological event, even if, as he openly admits, we have very little evidence for

some parts of it.

✓ (A.) Victor Machado, *Do Crime e da Loucura* \*

From the early XX century, this work presents some famous criminal cases from Portugal and tries to evaluate them based on the science of the time, but the work itself seems to frequently support the cases more in fiction than fact.

✓ Victor of Vita, *History of the Vandal Persecution*

Reports on some of the events of the fifth century persecution of the Christians by the Arians. Notably, the final moments of the second book contain a small treatise on the Trinity, explaining why their opinion, instead of that of the Arians, was supposedly the correct one.

✓ (Anrrique Ayres) Victoria, *A Vingança de Agamenom* \*

This tragedy from the mid XVI century, in Portuguese, is essentially an adaptation of the plot of Sophocles' *Electra*.

✓ Victorinus of Pettau, *Commentary on the*

*Apocalypse \**

An almost verse-by-verse commentary on the biblical book of the Apocalypse. These are often not very detailed, just some longer explanations here and there for some of the more problematic passages.

- ✓ Victorinus of Pettau, *On the Creation of the World*

Here, the author presents several metaphorical elements on the story of the creation of the world, as it is depicted in the Book of Genesis. He does not extend them very much, but he does establish some thought-provoking parallelisms with other christian beliefs of the time.

- ✓ (Pierre) Vidal-Naquet, *The Atlantis Story – A Short History of Plato's Myth*

I expected this to be a book about how the myth of Atlantis evolved across time. Although the author does succinctly present one such story, more often than not it is too quick to be truly informative to a person looking for this kind of information, as I was. For example, when it comes down to Atlantis as a mystical symbol or very high-tech civilisation, the author admits

to be mostly unfamiliar with the subject, which really disappointed me.

✓ (Afonso Lopes) Vieira, *O romance de Amadis*  
This succinct work essentially presents a beautiful Portuguese sum-up of the first three books of the famous medieval chivalric romance *Amadís de Gaula*. It appears to preserve most of the essential elements of the original, and, as such, also ends *in medias res*, without taking into account the (late) adventures of the fourth book.

✓ (Padre António) Vieira, *História do Futuro*  
(*Anteprimeiro Livro*)  
In concept this should have been quite an intriguing book, but either it was destroyed by the Inquisition or never fully completed at all, with only the prequel work being available nowadays, which outlines what would have been the content of the other seven books and shows how the idea makes sense in a biblical context. Supposedly, this would have been a history of the future – as opposed to the usual histories, which narrate only the past – in which Portugal would be fifth big kingdom of this world, i.e. the now-famous

portuguese myth of the "Quinto Império".

- ✓ (Padre António) Vieira, *Sermão de Santo António aos Peixes*

A famous sermon, in which the author impersonates Saint Anthony of Lisbon and preaches to the fish as if he was doing so to mankind. It is a bit interesting, and somewhat famous in the literature of Portugal.

- ✓ (Padre António) Vieira(?), *Arte de Furtar* \*

Attributed by some to this famous author, this is a work on the many thieveries which existed in the Portuguese empire in the XVII century. It is not a fun work, at all, but it can certainly lead the reader to think about how such bad influences did not disappear from Portugal across the centuries.

- ✓ (Padre Conceição) Vieira, *O Spiritismo, Ilha Encoberta e Sebastianismo*

A compilation of three individual treatises. The second and third ones, on the subject of the "Hidden Island" and the portuguese legend of "Sebastianismo", are particularly interesting, since they not only succinctly present those beliefs, but also quote from many rare

and obscure historical sources to show where those same beliefs come from, and what information they're supported on.

- ✓ (Norah) Vincent, *Self-Made Man: One Woman's Journey into Manhood*

This is an extremely fascinating book where a woman tried to live as a man for some time. Her findings are truly interesting and frequently unexpected, and so is the ending. I honestly felt this was one of those books that every man and woman should read.

- ✓ (Norah) Vincent, *Voluntary Madness: My Year Lost and Found in the Loony Bin*

Somewhat of a sequel to the previous book, here the author tries three different places which provide mental support. The ending is also a bit unexpected here, but the book definitely raises a ton of questions regarding the ways in which we try to help those who seem to have mental problems.

- ✓ Vincent of Lérins, *Commonitory*

Written in the fifth century AD, it essentially presents how to recognise the difference between "catholic"

teachings and the ones issued by heretics. Readers are expected to rely on scripture and tradition, but since the second book only survives through a sum-up by the author, one cannot fully know how well his original goal was achieved.

✓ Virgil, *Aeneid*

Once again, if you're reading these lines I assume that you already know what the *Aeneid* is all about... if not, essentially it retells how its hero, Aeneas, escaped from the destruction of Troy and made his way to Italy, eventually founding what would later become the Roman Empire. The first six books depict the travels of the hero, with the remaining six instead focusing on his war conquest, as if the author was attempting to inversely mirror the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

✓ Virgil, *Eclogues*

A compilation of bucolic poetry, similar to Theocritus' own.

✓ Virgil, *Georgics*

A poem on the subject of agriculture.



✓ Vitruvius, *De Architectura*

Certainly the most famous work on architecture of the Romans. But, as you may suppose, the author does not really reference that many significant myths.

✓ (Joaquim de Santa Rosa de) Viterbo, *Elucidário*\*

Written in the XVIII century, this is essentially a dictionary of old portuguese, containing many word which appear to have fallen in disuse across the centuries, such as "benefactorias", "defengules" or even "mostea". Obviously, each old word is then followed by a definition.

✓ (Sousa) Viterbo, *Fastos Religiosos (Festas e Procissões)*

This brief book preserves brief reports on some old religious holidays from Portugal, with the author quoting from hard-to-access original sources.

✓ (Sousa) Viterbo, *O Mosteiro de Sancta Cruz de Coimbra: Anotações e Documentos*

A short document presenting a significant source of information on a famous monastery in Coimbra, Portugal. Although it contains the transcription of

seven old documents significant for the subject, it does not contain that main document in itself, which is somewhat absurd.

✓ (Christopher) Vogler, *The Writer's Journey*  
A simplified and summary version of the "Hero's Journey", essentially based on the information from Campbell's *The Hero of a Thousand Faces*.

✓ (Chris) Voss, *Never Split the Difference: Negotiating as if your life depended on it*  
Although this is a book on how to negotiate, and how to do it well, it deserves to be noted here for the many personal tales the author reports on, and how he could, or should, or did, act in any of them. Such tales truly enrich the rest of the content, since you will be wondering how the cases end and how you yourself would have acted in similar situations.

✓ Vyasa, *Mahabharata*  
Perhaps among the most interesting epics I had the opportunity of reading. Although the story may seem limited (it talks about the long struggles of two competing groups of cousins), the way in which this

work associates a fictional storyline with relevant philosophical discussions gives it a very unique feel, allowing a reader to enjoy the story while contemplating certain aspects of his own life. At the same time, one should be warned that a complete edition of this work is extremely long, and fully reading it can be a very time-consuming task, with some philosophical sequences (such as the one usually titled *Bhagavad Gita*) being prohibitively long, and potentially even boring for most readers.



## 24- Section W

✓ (James) Wade, *Fairies in Medieval Romance*

This book's title is a bit misleading, in the sense it does not focus specifically on fairies themselves, but on their influence in medieval romances, ranging from their magical abilities, to the challenges they presented to heroes and even the land of Avalon itself. Oddly, and unlike one would certainly expect, it barely touches on the topic of the origin of the fairies.

✓ (Richard) Wagner, *The Nibelungen-Myth: A Sketch for a Drama*

In this short text, the author essentially sums-up the entire sequence of a famous nordic myth, which he would later use for four of his operas. He seems to have made some significant adaptations to the original plot, but at the same time this is a great simplification of the whole story, preserving many of the key elements of the original.

✓ (Wilhelm) Wagner, *Epics and Romances of the Middle Ages*

A very interesting book, presenting and summarizing the plots of some of the main epic poems and romances produced in the Middle Ages.

- ✓ (John) Wagstaffe, *The Question of Witchcraft Debated*

Published in the second half of the XVII century, this work opposes the idea that witchcraft exists. The author presents some basic arguments against it, but which are still quite convincing, ranging from translation errors in the Bible up to the huge convenience of the creation of witches among some groups. Ultimately, it is a simple book but one still interesting for the goal it attempts to achieve.

- ✓ (Walter L.) Wakefield, *Heresies of the High Middle Ages – Selected Sources Translated and Annotated* \*

An anthology of around 60 textual sources relevant to the study of heresies from the High Middle Ages. All texts contain introductions, annotations and additional bibliography, but most of them are presented solely in extracts, while others – such as the Cathar rituals – are included in a more complete form. Overall, this

seems like a good introductory book for those who are interested in the subject at hand.

- ✓ (Harry) Waldman, *Scenes Unseen: Unreleased and Uncompleted Films from the World's Master Filmmakers, 1912-1990* \*

I came across this work by mere accident, while searching for a very different kind of work. Instead, this one focuses on movies by famous film makers of the XX century that were never completed – the author explores what each of them was all about and why they, ultimately, were never completed.

- ✓ (Rose) Walker, *Art in Spain and Portugal from the Romans to the Early Middle Ages* \*

An introduction to the subject in the title, adorned with plenty of photos related to the topics it discusses, but it should also be noted it focuses way more on Spain than it does in Portugal.

- (Timothy D.) Walker, *Doctors, Folk Medicine and the Inquisition: The Repression of Magical Healing in Portugal during the Enlightenment*\*

- ✓ (Horace) Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto: A Gothic Novel*

I heard of this book a single time, oddly during a job interview where they were looking for a literature expert. I knew I had to read it. Although it still contains some elements derived from the middle ages (e.g. the fake authorship from a found manuscript, presented in the preface), it is the fictional story of one Manfred, who, having lost his only son and desiring further heirs, wants to marry his dead son's fiancée, which leads to many strange happenings at the castle as the story develops. The work is perhaps most notable as being the first gothic novel.

- ✓ (Matt) Walsh, *Johnny the Walrus*

A funny book, for children, about a kid who wants to be a walrus, and the crazy people in their society support the idea. It is certainly a cute way to portray the absurd transphilia in the author's own society.

- ✓ (Matt) Walsh, *What Is a Woman? One Man's Journey to Answer the Question of a Generation*

A book based on the documentary of the same name, seemingly adding more information to it. The author



explores the rise and strategies of the transphilic cults in the US, which is as much an interesting read as it is shocking, given what they've been doing to children.

- ✓ (William Shepard) Walsh, *Around the World in Eighty Minutes* \*

Published at the end of the XIX century, this work contains black-and-white photos of notable places from around the world, complemented with small descriptions of them. The photos are certainly good, but I felt the content focused too much in some locations, such as the UK, instead of being more even in favour of places all over the globe.

- "Walter", *My Secret Life* \*
- (Diana) Walzel, *Sources of Medieval Demonology*

- ✓ (Christopher) Warnock, *Ancient Magic: Selected Picatrix Translations and Commentary* \*

Those expecting to find valuable information on the *Picatrix* here will be seriously disappointed. Although this work does present some "selected translations", it doesn't offer a good introduction to the overall content

of the original work, and the featured commentary sequences are far from useful.

- ✓ (Bill) Warren, *Keep Watching the Skies!*  
*American Science Fiction Movies of the Fifties*  
*(The 21st Century Edition)* \*

This book succinctly presents the plots of many, if not all, the Science Fiction movies produced in the US in the 1950s. Each entry seems to go by in a few pages, making it a noteworthy reference work for those interested in the subject.

- ✓ (Peter) Washington, *Madame Blavatsky's*  
*Baboon* \*

I was expecting this to be a biography of Madame Blavatsky, and although she is talked about a lot, the work is more accurately, as its subtitle also says, "a history of the Mystics, Mediums, and Misfits Who Brought Spiritualism to America". Overall the book is interesting, written in a mixture of history and occasional satire (whether that is intentional or not, I'm not sure). If you're interested in the lives and contexts of those specific people from late XIX and XX century, this may be a good book for you – in my case,

I was a bit disappointed, because I wanted to know more about Blavatsky, but this work also talks about many other people and beliefs I had no interest in.

✓ (Philip W.) Waterman, *The Story of Superstition*\*

At first sight this may seem like an extremely interesting book, which supposedly reveals the origin and development of many famous superstitions. In fact, I can openly admit that as I read it I found myself repeatedly thinking “wow, how does the author even know this?!” The real answer, however, is quite a disappointing one – the author, whoever he was (he doesn’t seem to have published anything else), simply makes up some of his information. As you delve more and more into its pages, you’ll notice he never states his sources, makes huge jumps of reasoning in the arguments he presents, and in at least some cases gives out completely wrong information (such as when he approaches the subject that the fruit of the Tree of Good and Evil was an apple). For these reasons, this book and all its content must definitely be taken with a huge proverbial grain of salt.

✓ (Dom Basil) Watkins, *The Book of Saints: A*

*Comprehensive Biographical Dictionary* \*

A reference work containing information on over ten thousand saints. In theory this could be a great asset, but the information on each saint is very, very limited, and features no bibliographical information. So, this may be a valuable resource if you just want a quick reference to the saints, but it should be noted it also contains plenty of incorrect and dubious information on many of its articles.

- ✓ (William Montgomery) Watt, *Muslim-Christian Encounters: Perceptions and Misperceptions* \*

Basically retelling a history of the relationships between Islamism and Christianity, but essentially focusing on the perspective of the former. Everything is explained in a simple way, but sometimes the author appears to give large jumps, instead of going step by step in what he intends to tell readers.

- ✓ (Alan W.) Watts, *Myth and Ritual in Christianity* \*
- A mixture of mythological retelling and philosophy, I honestly felt this book was not entirely sure on what it wanted to be. It has some profoundly thought-provoking moments, but also some significantly boring

ones.

- ✓ (Linda S.) Watts, *Encyclopedia of American Folklore* \*

This work mentions many important elements of the folklore of the USA, but it should also be noted that the information on each of them is significantly limited, i.e. if you're not already aware of them, chances are that you won't learn much more about them here either.

- (Michael) Wayne, *Marx's Das Kapital for Beginners*

- ✓ (Wentworth) Webster, "Basque Legends" \*

Although this work naturally presents some legends from the Basque Country collected by the author, and he repeatedly tells us where each of them came from, its most significant aspect is arguably the fact the author presents personal introductions to each sequence of stories, so permitting some additional thoughts about them.

- ✓ (Fang-Yi) Wei, *Comparing Japanese and American themes in cartoons: a content analysis*

*of "Pokemon" and "Men in Black"*

I expected to find here precisely what the title promises, but instead this thesis only presents a comparison of both shows in terms of some very limited theoretical aspects, to the point not even a single episode is retold or explicitly compared between them.

- ✓ (Steve) Weidenkopf, *The Real Story of Catholic History: Answering Twenty Centuries of Anti-Catholic Myths*

In concept, this could have been an interesting work, as it presents myths related to Catholicism and then refutes them, often resorting to valuable historical sources. However, this book is also very biased for Catholics, recurrently presenting biased, incomplete, or just completely wrong, information.

- ✓ (Billy) Wellman, *Brazilian Mythology* \*

Seemingly part of a large collection on myths and legends from all over the world, here the author does retell many traditional stories from Brazil, but does so in such a disorganized way that it is difficult to understand where each one ends and the next one

begins. So, yeah, you can learn many of Brazil's traditional stories here, but the way in which they are all presented is way far from perfect, and also far from pleasing.

✓ (E. T. C.) Werner, *Myths & Legends of China* \*  
Essentially a high-level introduction to the myths and legends of China, with each chapter presenting some introductory cultural information before featuring some stories somehow related to it.

✓ (Fredric) Wertham, *Seduction of the Innocent*  
This book is famous for arguing that comic books from the XX century were corrupting the youth. It does make some intriguing and thought-provoking points here and there, but, perhaps most of all, it allows the reader to see how particular stories can be perverted to be read in an unusual way, e.g. that Batman and Robin lived (almost) alone in a mansion because they were actually male lovers. One definitely has to wonder if this is not the very same kind of reinterpretation of stories that Christians applied to the myths of Antiquity.

- ✓ (Lawrence) Weschler, *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*

Although short, this book is somewhat of a philosophical dissertation on the nature and evolution of museums, centring specifically on the *Museum of Jurassic Technology* from the USA.

- ✓ (M. L.) West, *Greek Epic Fragments*

One of the most recent editions of substantial epic fragments, including testimonials and verses from the Theban Cycle, the Trojan Cycle and the poems regarding Heracles and Theseus, among other miscellaneous works.

- ✓ (M. L.) West, *The Hymns of Zoroaster*

A translation of some of the oldest hymns attributed to Zoroaster, complete with a good introduction to the whole subject and some brief explanatory notes here and there. However, it should be noted that the author assumes that the reader already knows at least a little bit about the whole subject at hand.

- ✓ (M. L.) West, *The Invention of Homer*

West's considerations regarding the so-called "Homeric



Question", arguing his personal view of the idea that one man named Homer never existed. He also explores the implications of such view, and he effectively argues his point.

✓ (M. L.) West, *The Orphic Poems* \*

West's new edition of the *Orphic Poems*, containing the most up-to-date information and translations from the original poems.

✓ (W. D.) Westervelt, *Legends of Maui - a Demi-God of Polynesia and of his Mother Hina* \*

The author's intent seems to have been a good one, but the stories of Maui presented here are retold in a jumbled and confusing way, making it hard to follow their plot.

✓ (Patricia) Westheimer, *My Beloved Cascais*

I found this book by pure chance in a local library. It preserves what an American woman living in Cascais, Portugal, wrote about the place across the years. It captures a very specific time of the village's life, and in that sense I can even admit it repeatedly made me cry, as many of the things she alluded to no longer

seem to exist.

✓ (Jessie L.) Weston, *From Ritual to Romance* \*  
Essentially, this work attempts to explain the episode of the Holy Grail in arthurian romances by tying its entirety and its singular elements to pagan rituals and beliefs. Although some of those connections make perfect sense, others appear to be too much of a stretch.

✓ (Bernard) Whalen, *Case Files of the NYPD: More than 175 Years of Solved and Unsolved Crimes*  
A good book portraying the most famous crimes that ever happened in New York. At least one photo is provided in connection with each, usually of the criminals or victims, which was a rather unexpected discovery as a read it.

✓ (Stephen M.) Wheeler, *Accessus ad auctores: Medieval Introductions to the Authors* \*  
Featuring an English translation of the *Codex latinus monacensis 19475* (and an extensive commentary to it), in which readers from the Middle Ages were introduced to several noteworthy books from the

Antiquity – from the fables of Avianus to the works of Ovid and the *Ilias Latina*, among others – and explained what is profitable to obtain and learn from each of them.

- ✓ (Christal) Whelan, *The Beginning of Heaven and Earth – The Sacred Book of Japan's Hidden Christians*

An English translation of the *Tenchi Hajimari no Koto*, complete with a contextual introduction and extensive explanatory notes.

- (Joseph) Wheless, *Is it God's Word?*

- ✓ (Joseph) Wheless, *Forgery in Christianity*

Reporting on several kinds of forgeries which occurred in the history of Early Christianity.

- ✓ (T. H.) White, *The Bestiary: A Book of Beasts*

An English translation of a twelfth-century bestiary.

This kind of content in translation is not very common, and it deserves to be praised for that, but at the same time the notes to the text add little of significant to the original. Also, strangely, the introduction is placed at

the end of the book.

- ✓ (Thomas) White, *Supernatural Lore of Pennsylvania: Ghosts, Monsters and Miracles*

Containing multiple legends and cultural beliefs from the state of Pennsylvania, US, it is also noteworthy that this work takes a bit of a sceptical approach to the subjects at hand, frequently telling readers what the locals think about particular legends and even inquiring on the facts behind those stories.

- ✓ (Charles) Whitehead, *Lives and Exploits of the Most Noted Highwaymen, Robbers and Murderers, of All Nations* \*

Published in the middle of the XIX century, this work briefly sums up the lives of famous criminals, most of them seemingly coming from England.

- ✓ (A.) Wilburn, *The Archaeology of Magic in Roman Egypt, Cyprus and Spain*

This work provides a few stories and plenty of archaeological findings related to magic in the Roman Empire, through the specific examples of the three territories mentioned in its title.

- ✓ (Richard) Wilhelm, *The Chinese Fairy Book* \*

A selection of tales from China. It contains not only fairy tales, as the title could indicate, but essentially old stories from that country, among which you can find, in the last sequence of this book, the humble beginning of the famous story of Sun Wukong, from the *Journey to the West*.

- ✓ Wiliam of Tudela, *Song of the Albigensian Crusade* \*

Written at the time of the Albigensian Crusade, this is a poetic report of the events. Wiliam's sequence is fairly simple, basically reporting them in a very straightforward way, but eventually he stopped writing, for unknown reasons, and a second, unknown, poet continued the work. At that point, the poem's style changes a bit and it seems to become more detailed, e.g. speeches appear to become more frequent. Personally, I liked the first section a lot more, in the simple way it reports all the happenings.

- ✓ (W. J.) Wilkins, *Hindu Mythology, Vedic and Puranic* \*

This can be considered as quite a good introduction to the myths of the Hindus, since the author takes his time to go through the main gods, episodes and mythological figures, complementing them with significant quotations from the original texts to support his ideas. Overall, I felt that this book gave me precisely what I was looking for, an introduction to what I needed to know before delving, personally, into more advanced primary sources.

- ✓ (Philip) Wilkinson, *Myths, Legends & Sacred Stories: a Visual Encyclopedia* \*

Essentially an introduction to myths and legends from all over the world, with plenty of images representing each of them. Unfortunately, this book is also badly structured, as it dedicates way too many pages to a lot of stories from Greek and Roman Mythology, while also presenting entire systems of beliefs with just a very few ones; if nothing else, this ratio should have been more balanced.

- ✓ Willem-die-Madoc-maecte, *Of Reynaert the Fox*  
A Dutch version of one of Reynard the Fox's famous tales from the Middle Ages, to which this author

appears to have added a few short – and mostly unimportant, in my personal opinion – additional episodes to.

✓ (Doug) Williams, *Dreamfinder - 'Just In Time'*

The script for the very first episode of a Disney show based on the topic of imagination, which was never produced at all. Oddly, the main animatronic designed for it, "Figment", is still known today, in spite of never appearing in a significant role anywhere, this show, which was supposedly going to be its first one, having been aborted.

✓ (George M.) Williams, *Handbook of Hindu Mythology*

Somewhat of an encyclopedic work, in which the reader can learn a lot about the most famous figures and events of the Hindu Myths. If you feel you can read through many entries on a row, this is a good introductory source for those myths, which also comes with many additional bibliographical sources at the very end.

✓ (Melvyn J.) Willin, *Ghosts Caught on Film:*

*Photographs of the Paranormal*

Definitely a very intriguing book, in which the compiler presents large photos of supposed ghosts or paranormal entities. For each of them, the place where it was taken, the date, and a bit of a story behind it is also provided. I felt the compiler tried to be as unbiased as possible in his treatment of the subject. This is a fun book to read and discuss with friends.

- ✓ (Melvyn J.) Willin, *The Best of Ghosts Caught on Film: the Paranormal and the Supernatural Caught on Camera*

Similar to the previous book, but with even more content. Strangely enough, a significant number of the pages here – perhaps one third of the whole book? – are completely repeated from the previous one, without any kind of change, generating a situation where some sections have dates for the photos, while others don't; it is almost literally as if said pages had just been pasted here, precisely as they occurred in compiler's previous book, which kind of disappointed me, as I was expecting entirely new content.

- ✓ (Colin) Wilson, *The Mammoth Encyclopedia of*



*the Unsolved* \*

This is not exactly an encyclopedia, but instead a book which presents 63 unsolved mysteries from around the world, ranging from the historicity of King Arthur and Merlin to the real identity of Shakespeare, among many other topics. Some are related to myths and legends, others are about more historical topics, but they all seem to remain unsolved up to our own day and age.

- (Nigel) Wilson, *An Anthology of Byzantine Prose*

✓ (Nigel) Wilson, *Scholars of Byzantium*

A summary, and yet very important, introduction of the many scholars who rose in Byzantine Empire, from the early ones up to authors such as John Tzetzes and Maximus Planudes.

✓ (William Scott) Wilson, *Strange Tales from Japan*

Apparently translated from an original by Keisuke Nishimoto, this book succinctly retells myths and legends coming from Japan, to a total of 99 (or so the author claims in his subtitle). They're here retold in a

simple, yet enjoyable, way, alongside with sparse notes that clarify some points that may not be obvious to most western readers.

- ✓ (Marek) Winiarczyk, *The "Sacred History" of Euhemerus of Messene* \*

This is likely the most complete study regarding Euhemerus' famous work. It contains almost everything you may want to know about it, including over 60 pages of bibliographical references, in case you want to explore the topic *even* further.

- ✓ Winston Churchill, *Are There Men on the Moon?*  
A brief article, of which many different versions seem to have existed, where the author provides his personal view on this hypothesis.

- ✓ (Richard) Wiseman, *Paranormality: The Science of the Supernatural*

The subtitle is a fitting one for this book, essentially focusing on using Science to find out what is really going on during supposed "Supernatural" events. The author does this well, and even preserves some funny bits here and there.

✓ (Rosalind) Wiseman, *Queen Bees & Wannabes*

To me, this felt like an unusual but nonetheless thought-provoking work, about how girls and teen women interact and their relationships – between themselves and with men – evolve across time. If you have a daughter, this book is certainly a must read, even more since it is crowded with first-hand stories and many quotes from other young women and teens.

✓ (William Henry) Withrow, *The Catacombs of Rome*

A public domain work with plenty of information on the catacombs, from their origin and initial usage by Christians up to their rediscovery in more recent centuries.

✓ (E.J. Michael) Witzel, *The Origins of the World's Mythologies* \*

If you are interested in Comparative Mythology at a very high scholarly level, this may be a book for you. Essentially, it approaches the subject of the origin of Mythology from several different areas, but it is certainly written for the scholar, more than for a

potentially casual reader. The latter who would likely only enjoy the chapter in which several several parallelisms between different theogonies are established.

✓ (Gary K.) Wolf, *Who Censored Roger Rabbit?*

The novel in which the movie *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* was loosely based. Although it has a few interesting ideas here and there, it is not a very good detective story, and the ending is perhaps one of the most absurd I've ever seen, which here should be considered quite a bad thing. However, at least it explains how a strange creature like Roger ended up marrying Jessica Rabbit.

✓ (Diane) Wolkstein, *Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth: Her Stories and Hymns from Sumer*

This work features a great retelling of some stories related to "Inanna", complemented with lots of relevant pictures from Sumerian art, and even four commentaries related to the subjects at hand. However, the texts themselves have some strange elements which aren't explained in any way, and which may confuse casual readers; don't get me wrong, this

is an interesting book even for them, but those retellings definitely deserved to have some notes explaining elements that most readers may not be entirely familiarized with.

✓ (Olao) Worm, *Museum Wormianum* \*

Compiled and published in the middle of the XVII century, this is essentially a catalogue of the collection in the author's own museum. The book is extensively written in Latin, and its most significant feature is that it presents some engravings of what the author had in his collection, which is particularly important if we take into account the originals are now long gone.

✓ (Lawrence) Wright, *Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief*

An unbiased book on the birth and evolution of Scientology. It is certainly worth presenting for the fact that the author clearly tried to be as unbiased as possible, while still also reporting on what is true and what isn't about this whole nefarious cult.

✓ (Wiliam) Wrighte, *Grotesque Arquitecture (...)*

A simple and short book about potential ways to

design very quaint buildings such as huts, retreats, grottos and pavilions. Regrettably, the work also has very few examples of each one, to a total of 28 designs overall.

- Wulfstan II, *De Falsis Deis*

## 25- Section X

### ✓ Xenophanes, Fragments

Only fragment from this Greek philosopher have reached us, but some of them preserve very interesting information on the author's own philosophical thought. One of his most fascinating ideas is the fact that if animals had hands, they too – like humans – would try to fashion gods resembling their own shapes and forms.

### ✓ Xenophon, *Hiero, or the Tyrant*

A dialogue between the tyrant Hiero and the poet Simonides of Ceos, on the subject of happiness.

### ✓ Xenophon, *Memorabilia*

A recollection of information on the philosopher Socrates.

### ✓ Xenophon, *Oeconomicus*

Dialogue on the management of a household, but also on agriculture.

✓ Xenophon, *Symposium*

A discussion by Socrates and other characters on a wide variety of topics.

✓ Xenophon, *The Apology of Socrates*

Another account of Socrates trial, significantly different from Plato's. Which of the two is actually correct – if any at all – is something we cannot know, but what is undoubted is that they do not preserve the exact same report of the events.

✓ Xenophon of Ephesus, *Ephesian Tale*

Another Greek novel.

- (Sophia) Xenophontos, *'A Living Portrait of Cato': Self fashioning and the classical past in John Tzetzes' Chiliads*

✓ Xu Zhonglin, *Fengshen Yanyi*

A XVI century novel from China, focusing on the actions of the last monarch of the Shang dynasty. However, what is most noteworthy about this work is the fact it fuses fact with magical fiction, constantly interlacing both, with Taoists, magical beings, amazing



powers, deities, fighting almost side by side with normal humans. I found the work intriguingly enjoyable, even if the many battles, which compose the central part of the work, go on for too long.



## 26- Section Y

- (E. M.) Yamauchi, *Pre-Christian Gnosticism in the Nag Hammadi Texts?*

✓ (Kunio) Yanagita, *The Legends of Tono*

A compilation of folk tales from the city of Tono (in the north of Japan), collected at the beginning of the XX century. Although short, they are also extremely interesting, because they preserve the remains of several oral tales from the period, almost every one of which appears to have happened nearby and to people who, at the time, could even be identified and interviewed. Without this book, all these quaint stories would have been lost by now.

✓ (Lihui) Yang, *Handbook of Chinese Mythology\**

A short introduction to the mythologies of China. Perhaps the most important thing to take out of it is the fact that there's not a systematic set of mythical beliefs in that country, but instead many separate stories, often with very different outlines, which help explain this or that aspect of human life, and which

often even vary from one province to another.

✓ Yang Shou-chung, *Shen Nong Ben Cao Jing* \*

Seemingly a famous medical work in the culture of China, it essentially reports on individual herbs, animals, etc., and how they can influence human health. Some may attribute it to the legendary “Shen Nong”, but this work in itself appears to be much more recent than his age.

✓ (Li) Yanjia, *Stories and Myths of Eight Immortals*

Imperfectly translated from the original Chinese, this book contains the origin stories for the group called “The Eight Immortals” of chinese legends, along with some other stories related to the group, in itself, and its individual members.

✓ (Teiji) Yasuda, *The Tears and Message of Mary* \*

A second-hand account of the whole story of “Our Lady of Akita”, along with documents and photos related to the whole story. It seems that depending on the edition, this work may have more or less of said resources included in it.

- ✓ (Zhang) Yingyu, *The Book of Swindles* \*

From the beginning of XVII century China, this work contains some ways in which people tried to cheat each other to gain some monetary advantage. Each story is then followed by a small comment from the author on the whole topic.

- ✓ (Clive) Young, "Homemade Hollywood"

A curious book with a basic history of fan-made movies in the US, placing special emphasis on superhero ones and those related to Sci-Fi. It is an intriguing read, even containing a lot of information on why and how said movies were made.

- ✓ Yuan Mei, *What the Master Would Not Discuss* \*

Also known simply as *Zibuyu*, this is a collection of chinese oral tales from the end of the XVIII century, all of them containing mystical and supernatural elements.

- ✓ (Dong) Yue, *A Supplement to the Journey to the West*

Also known as *Tower of the Myriad Mirrors*, this is

essentially an additional side-quest to be read alongside the *Journey to the West*, and which should be placed between its original chapters 61 and 62. What is particularly unique about this short text, though, is that it is complemented with some questions and answers from its author, the first – and certainly the most relevant here – explaining that he wrote this side-quest in order to provide Sun Wukong with a unique opponent that couldn't be defeated with sheer strength alone (unlike the many fierce monsters frequently found in the original work).

## 27- Section Z

- ✓ (Pseudo-)Zacharias Rhetor, *Historia Miscellanea*\*  
More than an historical work, perhaps this can best be described as a compilation of information and textual sources relevant to the study of Christianity's past. Just to give a few examples, the author reports some miracles, quotes both from Zeno's *Henotikon* and Ptolemy's geographical work, and even gives out a succinct numbering of the many buildings in the city of Rome, among many other things.
  
- ✓ Zacharias Rhetor, *The Life of Severus*  
Possibly from the beginning of the VI century AD, this work reports on the early part of the life of Severus, a future patriarch of Antioch, but is perhaps most worthy of note due to the fact it presents, in an extended way, the relationships between Christians and Pagans in its century.
  
- ✓ (Meng) Zhang, *Unpacking the Latrine Goddess: The Evolution of Zigu Invitations from the Fifth Century to the Fifteenth Century*

A Master Thesis on Zigu's, China's most famous goddess associated with the latrine. The author presents her story and shows how belief in her evolved across time.

✓ Zhuangzi, *Zhuangzi* \*

Awkwardly titled over the name of its legendary author, this work is a compilation of "stories" from Ancient China. However, it should be noted they're not very funny or pleasing ones – instead, most, if not all, are of a philosophical nature, and as such can perhaps best be described as philosophical tales, along with some regarding famous philosophers of the time.

✓ (J.) Ziolkowski, *Fairy Tales From Before Fairy Tales: The Medieval Past of Wonderful Lies*

A collection and analysis of some medieval stories which could broadly be defined as "fairy tales", and which later ended up becoming so with some significant divergences. It also contains a translation of the original sources, so the reader is able to more effectively compare the original texts and their evolved forms.



- ✓ (Jack) Zipes, *The Cloak of Dreams*

A short book, with 16 fairy tales coming from China. Although, overall, they're quite pleasing, the book is regrettably too short.

- ✓ (Jack) Zipes, *The Contamination of the Fairy Tale, or The Changing Nature of the Grimms' Fairy Tales*

A research paper on how the famous tales collected by the Grimms were readapted and significantly changed by other authors in our most recent times. It does not talk about the changes made to the actual stories in the brothers' own times, unlike I expected before reading it, and as the first part of the title seems to suggest.

- ✓ (Jack) Zipes, *The Original Folk and Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*

This work contains a translation of the very first edition of the fairy tales of Brothers Grimm. This is specially important because several of the original stories were considered unfit for children and were significantly sanitized in the subsequent versions.

✓ Zoroaster, *Hymns*

Some Zoroastrian hymns seem to exist, which can be directly linked to this author. Although they do not seem to present anything that can be directly considered myths or legends, they do present direct and oblique mentions to this religion's beliefs.

✓ Zoroaster(?), *The Liturgy in Seven Chapters*

Either by this author or one of his followers, this text presents what seems to be a text to be said during some kind of liturgical event.

✓ Zosimus, *Nova Historia*

Zosimus' is an historical account written near the beginning of the VI century AD, but what is most interesting about it is the fact that he was still a Pagan, and he writes from the point of view of someone who, unlike many of his colleagues, is not a Christian yet. For that reason, many of the events depicted here are significantly different from those in other reports; read, for example, this author's account of the Battle of the Milvian Bridge and you'll quickly notice how significantly different the story is from that whole fantasy represented in the Christian sources.

✓ Zosimus of Panopolis, *On the Letter Omega*

A mystical exposition of information on the Greek Letter "omega", i.e.  $\Omega$ , the author being a known mystic and likely one of the very first alchemists.

- Zuiddam (Benno), *Plutarch and 'God-eclipse' in Christian Theology*

-----// End //-----